

Zahed Matar

INTERNATIONAL

Dhaka opposition threatens massive disobedience campaign

DHAKA, Feb 29, (Reuters): Bangladesh opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia said today she might call a massive civil disobedience campaign after this week's election which is being boycotted by most anti-government parties.

Khaleda, head of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, said in an interview she was reluctant to reveal her plans but, asked about a civil disobedience campaign, said "Yes, I think it will start after the third of March."

Disrupt
On that date, 21 opposition parties will boycott the parliamentary polls called by President Hossain Mohammad Ershad after he dismissed parliament last December.

The parties have announced a 36-hour general strike from 6 am (0000 GMT) on Wednesday to disrupt the voting but the government moved to lessen its effect by declaring Wednesday a public holiday as well as election day on Thursday.

The announcement followed renewed violence around Dhaka University where students hurled vehicles to protest against the killing of three opposition activists on Sunday. Opposition leaders blamed police for the deaths.

Peace
In the afternoon, at least 15 bombs exploded in central Dhaka as hundreds of opposition workers tried to stage a protest rally.

People on the street ran for cover as the bombs, apparently thrown from nearby buildings, went off in quick succession.

Several homemade bombs exploded harmlessly in the capital early today, while in Gazipur, 30 km (20 miles) east of Dhaka, district officials said opposition supporters burnt down the offices of the local candidate for the ruling Jatiya Party.

Khaleda and Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina have been

leading a campaign begun last November to force Ershad to resign.

Khaleda said the opposition parties might have to call an all-out strike to force a resolution to their anti-Ershad campaign.

"Burning down polling stations is not part of our plan," she said. "We believe in peace. We do not believe in violence. We want peaceful protest."

The opposition coalition warned that no-one should vote or go to work, and even Dhaka's estimated two million cycle-riders should go off the road.

But Ershad, who has said he would deploy the Army to ensure peaceful voting, said on Sunday: "The election will be held on schedule and there's no power on earth which can stop it."

Both Khaleda and Hasina have said they are confident that few people will vote in the poll to elect 275 members to the parliament. Twenty-five people have already been elected unopposed.

Killed
Police shot and killed three protesters when thousands of opponents of Ershad rallied yesterday in the capital to demand his resignation, opposition leaders said.

Information Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud denied three demonstrators were killed, saying that one man had died after being run over by a bus.

Police said they fired tear gas and blank shots to disperse thousands of bomb-and-rock-throwing demonstrators and five policemen were injured.

But a spokesman for the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), said three party workers were killed and 100 injured by police during the demonstration yesterday.

He said police threw splinter bombs and fired at random with automatic weapons when BNP supporters tried to march in favour of a poll boycott.

Priests pray under water cannon barrage in Cape Town

Tutu briefly detained after anti-government protest

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 29, (UPI): Robbed priests today knelt and prayed under a water cannon barrage in downtown Cape Town after riot police broke up an anti-government protest, arresting Archbishop Desmond Tutu and 17 other church leaders, reporters and witnesses said.

Western diplomats and bystanders were caught in the water jet when dozens of police broke up a three-block march to the nation's parliament by clerics and followers protesting a government crackdown on opposition movements.

Kneeling priests prayed under the deluge, and riot-equipped officers and plain-clothed security police bundled protesters, reporters and camera crews

away, reporters said. Police later freed Tutu, the Rev Allan Boesak, head of the Geneva-based World Council of Reformed Churches, Roman Catholic Archbishop Stephen Naidoo, and up to 80 other clerics and supporters.

Defied
Police were investigating charges against the protesters under emergency security laws, a spokesman said in Cape Town.

The clerics, marching from St George's Anglican Cathedral to the nearby parliament buildings to deliver a petition protesting last week's crackdown on black opposition, openly defied security laws prohibiting demonstrations within a one-mile (km) radius of parliament.

An Anglican Church spokes-

man said Tutu and other clerics freed by police would address a news conference in Cape Town at 3 pm (13:00 GMT).

Tutu, wearing purple archbishop's robes, told reporters after his release he "felt very good" about the police response to a peaceful procession.

"We believe that the government in its actions over recent years, but especially by last week's action, has chosen a path for the future which will lead to violence, bloodshed and instability," church leaders said in the petition, addressed to President Pieter Botha and lawmakers.

"Your actions indicate to us that those of you in government have decided that only violence will keep you in power, that you

have chosen the military option for our country," they said.

Tutu, Boesak, Naidoo and other church leaders led the procession from St George's Cathedral after a service protesting clamps last week on 18 mainly black opposition movements, among them the 2-million-member United Democratic Front and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu).

Reporters and eyewitnesses said a line of blue-clad riot police swept into the marchers some 200 yards (metres) from the church after a loudspeaker warning from a police commander to disperse.

Foreign diplomats and bystanders were caught up in the melee and drenched by the water

cannon, witnesses said. "They bundled Archbishop Tutu and most of the leading churchmen into police vehicles and turned a water cannon on the others," an eyewitness told UPI.

"They had walked into the street four abreast. They were met by a very large force of police, about for or five deep. They were given two minutes to disperse," freelance reporter Tony Weaver said.

He said the police commander warned they would use "whatever force is necessary" if the march failed to break up.

Security police in civilian clothes rushed at the marchers and pulled out Tutu, Boesak, Naidoo and other leaders of the procession.

"Immediately ... the others all

knelt down and started praying. At that, police moved in and started picking them up bodily," Weaver said.

Other witnesses said riot officers carried teargas launchers but did not use them.

A reporter said Reverend Maclean, wife of the Canadian Ambassador to South Africa was briefly held by police and released.

Rus Stubbart, Seco Secretary at the Canadian embassy, was drenched by water cannon. "It appears to be political cooling off period," dripping Stubbart told a reporter.

An embassy spokeswoman said Mrs Maclean and Stubbart had planned to attend the protest.

Curfew clamped on Shah Faisal Colony

KARACHI, Feb 29, (Reuters): A curfew was clamped on a Karachi suburb and troops were called out after a man was killed in a fresh outbreak of rioting yesterday, the Pakistan government said.

Government doctors said at least 20 people, mostly with bullet wounds, were taken to hospital from the scene of the trouble, Shah Faisal Colony near Karachi airport.

Fire-fighters said two dozen houses and shops, a school and a mosque were set ablaze. Unidentified people shot at fire engines and blocked their way as they tried to save the buildings.

The area has frequently been racked by clashes between Mohajir migrants from other parts of the sub-continent and Pashtuns from Pakistan's north-west.

The government statement said the curfew, imposed late last night, would be in force until further orders.

Marcos may be allowed to return

MANILA, Feb 29, (Reuters): President Corazon Aquino may permit deposed President Ferdinand Marcos to return to the Philippines from his Hawaiian exile, a presidential emissary said today.

"She said she would study the matter and consult with her advisers," said Congressman Egidio Tanjunato, one of two Aquino relatives who met the former president in Honolulu earlier this year.

Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno told reporters Aquino was willing to listen to Marcos after hearing reports from the two "trusted emissaries."

Benigno said Marcos had shown a "qualitative change" in his attitude toward the woman whose government he refused to recognise after his overthrow in a civilian-backed Army revolt two years ago.

Desire
But Benigno gave no details and stopped short of predicting the former strongman would be allowed back.

Tanjunato said: "The president agrees that the matter of Mr Marcos's desire to return should be viewed with both openness and objectivity and should be decided solely on the basis of where the republic's best interests lie."

Aquino has formally said Marcos's return would only be considered when the country had stabilised politically and when Marcos had answered theft and corruption charges.

Marcos, who ruled the Philippines for two decades, stands accused of bleeding billions of dollars from the poverty-stricken country through systematic graft before he was driven from office and the country in February, 1986.

Tanjunato, a cousin of



Ferdinand Marcos

Aquino, told reporters he and the president's uncle, Congressman Francisco Sumulong, met Marcos at the former dictator's request.

Marcos said today he was ready to negotiate with Aquino's government about his return to the Philippines from exile in Hawaii.

In a statement from Honolulu read by his spokesman Leonie Tan on the private Manila radio station DZXL, Marcos said efforts by the Aquino government to reconcile with opponents were an "inspired move."

"We are ready to appoint our representatives to negotiate the details and conditions under which my family and I shall return to the Philippines for the salvation of the country from the bloody takeover by communist insurgents," his statement said.

Meanwhile, an amnesty for Philippine rebels ended today with officials speculating that Aquino will not renew the scheme opponents say proves she is soft on communism.

The year-long amnesty — under which rebels received cash in exchange for their guns — ended after a violent weekend in which 19 soldiers were killed.

Opponents of Noriega call for strike

PANAMA CITY, Panama, Feb 29, (AP): Opponents of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega called a nation-wide strike for today, trying to force the military strongman from power while deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle remained in hiding.

Strike organisers acknowledged yesterday they might not be able to shut down Panamanian commerce. They said government pressure and financial hardship probably would keep some businesses operating.

Rafael Severino, the head of the Panama Canal workers group, said the waterway between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans would not be closed.

But at a news conference late last week, Severino hinted that some governments might find the passage of their ships slowed if they continue to support Noriega.

Crippled

With Panama's economy already crippled by eight months of civil unrest, Delvalle and Noriega's other opponents hoped for a strike that would create financial chaos.

They suggested that might force Noriega to resign as head of the defence forces, paving the way for Delvalle's return to office, and an end to military domination of the government.

Meanwhile, Delvalle's whereabouts remained unknown four days after he was forced from office and three days after he fled his home, fearing arrest and deportation by security agents under Noriega's command.

But in an interview yesterday with the US-based CBS Television network, Noriega said Delvalle would not be arrested if he came out of hiding.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Life imprisonment

RABAT, Feb 29, (Reuters): Three Moroccan diplomats and a doctor have been sentenced to life imprisonment for spying for the Soviet Union, defence lawyers said today.

They included Hassan Bouah, counsellor and former charge d'affaires at the Moroccan embassy in Warsaw who had earlier served as cultural attaché in Moscow.

The other diplomats were Jalil Tadlaoui, an embassy counsellor who served in Addis Ababa and at the United Nations in New York, and Mohamed Chegraoui, a cypher clerk at the Moscow embassy.

Moi's third term

NAIROBI, Feb 29, (Reuters): Daniel Arap Moi began a third five-year term of office as Kenya's president today after being nominated unopposed, an official announcement said.

Moi, 63, was the only candidate nominated by the country's sole political party, the Kenya African National Union, at a ceremony last Saturday. No elections were required after that.

The second stage of parliamentary elections is scheduled for March 27 following primaries on Feb 22.

Man jailed

PEKING, Feb 29, (Reuters): A Chinese factory worker was today sentenced to life imprisonment for posing as the son of a high official and seducing 16 women, the Beijing Evening News reported.

Bokassa death sentence commuted

BANGUI, Feb 29, (Reuters): President Andre Kolingba of the Central African Republic has commuted the death sentence on ousted emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa to forced labour for life, Bangui Radio reported today.

The 67-year-old Army sergeant, who proclaimed himself emperor, was sentenced to death on June 12 for a series of gruesome crimes committed during his 13-year rule.

The official radio quoted a presidential decree saying the decision to commute Bokassa's sentence was taken on recommendation of the Consultative Higher Justice Council.

In November, the Supreme Court rejected Bokassa's appeal for a retrial, leaving President Kolingba to decide whether to carry out the sentence by firing squad or commute it.

The council, made up of the country's top judges, met a week ago to discuss Bokassa's fate.

Bokassa, who ruled the landlocked diamond-rich black African state until his downfall in 1979, returned home unexpectedly in October 1986 from exile in France to face trial.

Since then, he has been detained under the supervision of the French-trained presidential guard in a Bangui barracks overlooking the Riverside City.

Sikhs kill 7 for not paying protection money

AMRITSAR, India, Feb 29, (Agencies): Sikh extremists hurled a house and killed seven members of two Christian families watching television Punjab police said.

This was the first massacre in Christian families since the Sikh radicals began a campaign for independent homeland in 1986. Police said about 20 people were watching television when two militants of the Khalist Commando Force struck a night in the predominantly Christian hamlet at Batala near the Sikh holy city Amritsar.

The extremists gunned down the seven after the family of K. Singh Mashta, a man who refused to pay protection money, police said.

Massiha, his brother and 64-year-old mother were among the victims. The police gave details of the other family.

Diouf declares emergency in Dakar

DAKAR, Feb 29, (Reuters): Newly re-elected Senegalese President Abdou Diouf declared a state of emergency in the capital today, state radio said.

The radio said the state of emergency was limited to the capital and its suburbs.

The measure comes one day after the country voted in general elections and follows violent clashes between supporters of Diouf and his main opponent, the elections Abdoulaye Wade.

Riot police have taken up positions at strategic points in Dakar and witnesses said tear-gas was being used to break up unlawful ised gatherings.

According to unofficial results, Diouf won a new five year mandate in yesterday's elections, but Wade has called the polls a masquerade and the official returns ridiculous.

During campaigning he threatened to disrupt the poll and engage in acts of civil disobedience if any trace of electoral fraud emerged.

Tamil mothers end fast

(Continued from Page 1)

troops ceased anti-rebel operations and the rebels agreed to negotiations.

Despite their action, it was unclear if their demands had been met.

An official at the Indian High Commission, in Colombo said Indian troops had reduced operations in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

In New Delhi, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gopalaswami Parthasarthy said operations against the Tamil rebels were continuing. He said India would agree to talks with the rebels only after they surrendered their weapons.

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اسماء محمد

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ANNOUNCEMENT
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Even after discovery of oil

Arab financial aid to North Yemen did not stop: Saleh

Abdullah Saleh president of Yemen Arab Republic was quoted yesterday as saying that the financial aid to his country did not stop even after the discovery of oil in Yemen.

Saleh told Seyassah newspaper that the financial aid by Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait, as well as a number of other friendly states is still flowing into his country, as oil exploration operations are in their beginning stage, and the export of Yemeni oil began only in December last year with a very small amount.

Regarding his country's relations with the Arab Democratic Republic of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh denied rumours claiming that the situation between the two Yemen is about to erupt.

He affirmed that such reports are "infringe" and the rumours are baseless, adding that the talks on unification of the two parts of Yemen are moving ahead very well.

He added in this regard, that

the dialogue and understanding exists with South Yemen in all fields, including the joint project on oil exploration.

On the return of Yemeni expatriates to their country and whether that will cause a new problem for the country, the president of North Yemen said there is no problem at all on their return as "our struggle to explore the natural resources is for the benefit of the citizens to live with peace."

Invasion
In response to another question on the existence of Palestinian military wings in his country, the president said that the Palestinians in Yemen are considered in their second homeland, and we welcomed them after the Zionist invasion of Lebanon when the Palestinians left Beirut in 1982, affirming that all the Arab states are exposed to the Zionist aggression.

North Yemen's stances towards the Palestinians cause are firm and clear, and the Yemen Arab Republic is com-

mitted to all Arab League resolutions which serve the Palestinian people and secure their full legitimate rights under the leadership of the PLO.

Uprising
On the current popular uprising in the occupied lands, Saleh said that the current developments in the occupied territories changed the facts and forced international opinions to deal with the question with more objectivity.

"Any initiative does not include the Palestinians' full legitimate rights will not succeed," He added, and affirmed that the Palestinian revolution will continue until peace is achieved.

As far as democracy in his country is concerned the president said that democracy expressed the Yemeni revolution, and the elections of the current "shura" council is the continuation of the general free elections in choosing the leadership in different fields.

Sheikh Nasser opens art exhibition



Sheikh Nasser cuts the ribbon to open the exhibition.



Ministers look at the exhibits.

KUWAIT'S Social Affairs and Labour Minister and chairman of the higher committee for National Day celebrations, Sheikh Nasser Al Ahmad, patronised the opening of the sixth Feb 25 Exhibition on Sunday at the Abdullah Al Salem District art gallery.

Fifty-two artists from Kuwait and other GCC countries are participating in the exhibition

which is part of the National Day celebrations.

The opening was attended by Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houti, Information Ministry Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Mohammed Jafar, Social Affairs and Labour Ministry Undersecretary Issa Yassen, assistant undersecretaries, GCC ambassadors, editor-in-chief of Al Arabi magazine Dr Mubammad Al Rumaihi, chairman of

the Kuwait Formative Arts Association Mahmoud Al Radwan, and a number of formative artists.

Sheikh Nasser made a speech in which he expressed satisfaction over the artistic works and said they reflected the way of life in the Gulf. He praised the artists participating in the exhibition and the cooperation among them.

Governor receives students delegation

THE Governor of Jahra, Sheikh Salem Al Nasser, yesterday met a delegation of students from the Umm Mabad intermediate girls school. They presented him with a bouquet on the occasion of Kuwait's 27th National Day. The Governor also met a delegation from 'Abdullah Bin Suhail Boys school. Both meetings were attended by the security director, Colonel Ahmad Ibrahim Ismail, and the public relations director, Ist. Lieut. Saud Al Ayada. The picture at right shows the Governor receiving the bouquet, and the picture below shows him with the delegation of girls.



Albanian minister condemns Israeli aggressive policy

BELGRADE, Feb. 29. (Kuna): Albanian Foreign Minister Reis Malile has vehemently condemned Israeli aggressive policy, blaming it for the current tension and ongoing dangers in the Middle East and advocated Arab solidarity to overcome problems in the region.

In an interview with Kuna at the conclusion of the Balkan countries' recent foreign ministers meeting here, Malile stressed "we are quite convinced that our friends the Arabs are capable of offering required solidarity in order to overpower their enemies."

"The Albanian official expressed readiness to establish cordial and 'sound' relations with Kuwait, which he said "we respect very much for its wise and balanced policy in addition to its positive international and regional stands."

Spreading
Concerning the Iraq-Iran war, Malile, who is also politburo member of the ruling party, said "this war is extremely dangerous not only for the Gulf and Middle East regions but also for the Mediterranean area, Europe and the whole world."

Malile said a unified Arab front toward the Gulf war will

contribute towards ending it. Meanwhile, the Albanian senior official accused the superpowers of spreading disturbances and encouraging wars and conflicts in order "to justify their presence in the world's strategic and sensitive areas."

Malile urged Arab and other Third World countries to pursue a policy of self-reliance in all fields.

Security
In the meantime, Malile affirmed that security of Balkan is linked to that of the Mediterranean. He added that what goes on in the Middle East reflects directly on the Balkan situation, in particular, and Europe and the whole world in general, indicating that Balkan and European states should participate in halting Middle East tensions.

The Albanian official, whose country strongly opposes both Nato and Warsaw alliances, noted that the increasing influence of a superpower in a certain region leads to the escalation of tension and disturbances there, charging that "Israel is an American arm in the Middle East."

Moreover, Malile said that his country is preparing for a more

dynamic role within Balkan region and Europe and is seeking serious relations with all countries on the basis of equality, non-intervention in internal affairs, mutual respect in addition to condemnation of all forms of expansionist and aggressive policies.

The Albanian chief diplomat urged Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria (all Balkan countries) to get rid of military bases and nuclear weapons on their territories for the sake of international and regional peace and stability.

Muslims lack unity

DR. KHALED AL Mazhour from Kuwait University's Faculty of Sharia said the Islamic world is classed with Third World countries because of the lack of unity among Muslims in Islamic countries. He added that colonialists tried to separate Muslims by establishing societies that call for nationalism, regionalism and secularism. He said that Jews and Christians continue to dominate the Islamic world through the generation

educated by colonists. We carry out the plans they make, he said, adding that the Prophet Mubammad (PBUH) warned against this.

At a lecture at Kuwait University, Dr Al Mazhour said that what is happening in Malaysia is an example of what colonisation had done to disunite Muslims. He added that a Vatican representative visited the Sabah state in Malaysia where the prime minister is a Christian in order to expel Muslim refugees from the state and to allow Christian Filipinos to immigrate to the state.

He said that the same situation exists in Indonesia where Muslims are confronted by missionaries.

Al Mazhour said that Muslims who leave their countries are obliged to go to the US or Europe where they must deal with foreign missionaries and attractions of the Western culture.

Infant mortality rate in UAE drops

ABU DHABI, Feb. 29. (Kuna): Infant mortality rate in the United Arab Emirates has decreased by 50 per cent in the past five years.

A report by Health Ministry recently published here and carried by the Gulf News Agency today said that the decrease is due to the UAE ministry's efforts ensuring that medical services are available to citizens and expatriates, in addition to state-sponsored prevention programmes.

The report explained that most infants were vaccinated against fatal diseases due to the spread of specialised and maternity centres.

Two killed in road accidents

A MAN and a boy died after being knocked down by speeding cars yesterday. The man, a Pakistani, was hit on the Sixth Ring Road, while the boy, a non-Kuwaiti, was struck in Sabahiya.

There were 18 traffic accidents in Kuwait. Six took place in Hawalli, six in Jahra, four in Ahmadi and two in the capital.

Students call for continuation of uprising

A NUMBER of student societies of Kuwait University said in a statement yesterday that the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories has aborted all proposals about deceptive peace with Israel.

The statement signed by the mathematics, chemistry, physics, sharia, accountancy, administration, medicine, engineering, philosophy and psychology, law and Arabic language societies said the uprising will overthrow all those who call for "settlements of surrender."

The societies warned against attempts to contain the uprising and rejected all peace plans, including the proposed international conference on peace.

The statement emphasised "the price of the Palestinian people's suffering and blood should not be a self-rule or a confederation or a distorted mini-state on our holy land."

The statement called for the continuation of the Palestinian uprising until the Zionist entity is uprooted from all of Palestine.

New Muslims

JEDDAH, Feb. 29. (QNA): Ten people embraced Islam today in Jeddah. They were two women and eight men of different nationalities.

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Co-op honours top students



THE Sabahiya and Ahmadi Cooperative Society held a party recently in honour of 140 students who came first in their classes in the 30 schools in the area.

The party was attended by the director of the cooperation department at the Social Affairs

and Labour Ministry, a number of principals, parents and students.

The chairman of the society, Khaled Ayesh, made the welcoming speech. He emphasised the role of the cooperative movement in serving residents in various walks of life. He said the

society spent KD82,360 in 1987 for educational services, including summer classes, scholarships and awards.

The board chairman and members then distributed prizes to the students. Picture shows a student receiving her prize.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audience

HH the Amir yesterday received acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Message from Mubarak

HH the Amir yesterday received a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak delivered by Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait.

Cable of condolences

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable to Morocco's King Hassan II to condole the death of 52 people in a cliff collapse in Fez.

A cliff in an abandoned quarry collapsed after heavy rain, burying a shanty town below while the occupants slept. The final toll from the landslide stands at 52 dead and six injured.

Congratulations

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah received cables of congratulations from the heads of states and governments and senior officials of sisterly and friendly countries on the 27th anniversary of the National Day.

Sheikh Saad also received cables of congratulations from the citizens in and outside the country on the National Day. Sheikh Saad replied thanking oil and wishing them many happy returns.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Egypt's foreign debts

A KUWAITI daily yesterday called on Arab Gulf states to contribute in paying some of Egypt's foreign debts.

Al Rai Al Aam said that Egypt was for thirty years committed to the defence of the Arab cause of Palestine by action not words, emphasising it entered three wars for that cause.

As a result, Egypt is burdened by military debts which would affect its responsibility towards its sisterly Arab countries if this situation continued, the paper pointed out.

Non-payment of those debts will greatly diminish the distinctive role of Egypt in the Arab arena, the paper warned.

Ministries cooperating with audit bureau

THE head of Kuwait's Audit Bureau Fares Al Wigayan said the bureau had been successful in changing the concept of financial control at the ministries in the last few years. He added that ministry officials cooperate fully with the bureau's work.

Al Wigayan explained that the ministries understood that the role of the bureau was not to police their work and look for mistakes but rather to protect public interests. He added that the ministries respond to comments made in bureau reports

and avoid making these same mistakes in the future.

He said that violations had decreased in the last few years as a result of the bureau's reports and the ministries' follow up. He added that inspectors are sent to each of the ministries and government establishments to check their accounts. Al Wigayan said that an engineering office had been established at the bureau which is run by engineers and specialists who are in charge of state projects.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

War is not in the interest of Gulf foes: information minister

Kuwait reiterates support for uprising

KUWAIT'S Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah was quoted as saying here yesterday that Kuwait supports the popular uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and expressed hope that the uprising would realise the objectives it is struggling for.

In an interview with Al Sharq newspaper of Beirut, Sheikh Jaber said the Western media, which is originally biased towards Israel, has started dealing positively with the developments of the uprising.

He expressed belief that the uprising was spontaneous and has broken out "as a result of disappointment caused by the regimes and organisations."

He stressed that "the heroic

uprising has so far changed many things and equations."

Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak denied that the issue of severing relations with Iran had been discussed at the recent summit conference of the Gulf Cooperation Council and said that seeking to bring the Iraq-Iran war to an end necessitates preserving these relations.

He expressed belief that the continuation of the conflict is not in the interest of Iran or Iraq and the only beneficiary is the joint enemy, that is Israel.

The information minister said the GCC summit has assigned the President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan to embark on good-offices efforts with the aim of ending the Iraq-Iran war.

He voiced hope that this would be of positive results and stressed that the official media in Kuwait has not launched any campaign against Iran though the Iranian government-sponsored press is daily attacking Kuwait.

He said, however, that some writers have attacked Iran in Kuwaiti newspapers as a reaction to certain actions by Iran, particularly after the aggressions on the Kuwaiti and Saudi embassies in Tehran.

Duty

On the food and medical assistance to Lebanon extended by Kuwait, the minister said the assistance was a duty in the light of the suffering of the brothers in Lebanon.

He expressed hope that the

Lebanese crisis would come to an end so as Lebanon be able to resume its national role.

On the restoration of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Egypt, Sheikh Jaber said by restoring relations, we give President Hosni Mubarak a valuable chance to restore to Egypt its Arab role.

On the recent cabinet reshuffle in Kuwait, the Kuwaiti minister said it was carried out with the aim of "giving the chance for the young generation to put its capabilities in service of the state."

He said that the Kuwaiti press is heading for a new stage, disclosing that a plan is under way to regulate the press that will be of good impact on the Kuwaiti press.

Iraqi envoy in UAE to brief on Iranian attacks on cities

ABU DHABI, Feb 29, (Kuna): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's personal envoy, Taha Yassin Ramadan today arrived here on a visit to the United Arab Emirates after concluding his tour to the Arab Republic of Yemen.

Ramadan who is First Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq is carrying a message from President Saddam Hussain for the UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

According to diplomatic sources here the message from President Saddam Hussain deals with the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf particularly relating to the recent Iranian aggression against Iraqi cities.

During his stay in the UAE, the Iraqi envoy is expected to hold a series of meetings with the UAE officials and discuss with them matters relating to the Iraq-Iran war and the joint efforts being made to help end the bloodshed of Muslims on both sides.

It may be recalled here that Iraq is ready to stop the war but Iran has refused to accept the United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire.

Ramadan who is also a member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council concluded his visit today to the Arab Republic of Yemen by addressing a press conference in Sanaa.

Addressing the newsmen in Sanaa, Ramadan highlighted efforts exerted by Saudi Arabia to bring an end to the ongoing Iraq-Iran war.

Ramadan expressed appreciation for the support to Iraq extended by the Arab Gulf states.

"If Iran continues to attack the Iraqi cities, then Iraq would strike the Iranian economic installations. Moreover, the Iranian rulers have expansionist ambitions," he said.

Earlier Ramadan held a meeting in Sanaa with the Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Yemen, Abdul Aziz Abdul

Ghani and discussed with him means of consolidating relations between the two brotherly countries in various fields. Arab issues of mutual concern, in the forefront is the Iraq-Iran war, and the Palestinian uprising in occupied Arab lands.

Ramadan was received here last night by President of the Yemen Arab Republic Ali Abdullah Saleh.

According to the Iraqi News Agency, Ramadan conveyed to the President Saleh a message from President Saddam Hussain of Iraq.

During the meeting, the current Arab situation was discussed and both sides resolved to back Arab efforts and reaffirmed their full support for the joint Arab action.

The meeting was also attended by Yemen Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr Abdul Karim Al Iryani, Interior Minister Dr Abdullah Hussain and Iraqi Ambassador to Sanaa.

Sheikh Saad receives congratulations

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, received a message from Minister of Social Affairs and Labour and head of the higher committee Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed for celebrating the National Day.

The cable referred to the achievements in different sectors realised by Kuwait as a result of the wise policy and leadership of HH the Amir.

The cable hailed the efforts of Sheikh Saad in providing satisfaction and welfare for the citizens and residents of Kuwait and in bolstering the comprehensive development projects so that Kuwait remain an oasis of security, welfare and peace in the region and the whole world.

Sheikh Saad sent a reply cable thanking the head and members of the committee for their sincere nationalistic feelings.

Sheikh Saad also received a congratulatory cable from president of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abdul Aziz Hamad Al Saquer on the "occasion" of "Kuwait's National Day".

Sheikh Saad sent a reply cable thanking Al Saquer and the chamber's board for the gesture.

Al Houti opens Jahra motorway

PUBLIC Works Minister Abdul Rahmao Al Houti yesterday inaugurated Jahra motorway.

The inauguration ceremony took place at the new road leading to Al Jahra village, where the minister delivered a speech marking the occasion.

Works at the motorway finished last June. It links the 6th Ring Road, Al Sabiah Road and Al Doha junction.

Works at the project began in June 1984 and included the reconstruction of 11.5 kilometres of Jahra motorway, three separate junctions and two exits.

In a speech, Al Houti said that highways have become an important trait of modern transportation systems.

He noted that plans are being implemented now toward implanting trees and bushes along the newly-built road to add more beauty to Kuwait's roads and highways.

He also called on street riders to maintain its beauty by behaving in good manners and driving safely.

Women's committee hosts bazaar

THE working women committee of the Kuwait Workers Federation yesterday hosted a bazaar in support of the popular uprising in occupied Palestine which is well into the third month now.

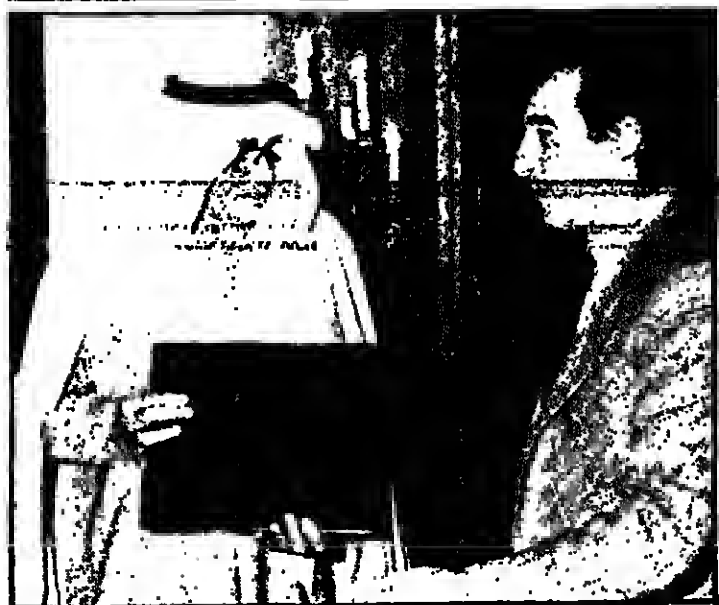
Deputy chairperson of the committee Mariam Idris spoke to the bazaar affirming the women's determination to support the struggle of the Palestinians to establish their independent state.

The bazaar in which a number of official quarters are participating alongside the women's committee including the national council for culture, arts and letters, was opened by the federation's President Rashed Al Mansour.

Kuwaiti and Palestinian national dresses, handmade embroideries and food were among the bazaar items.

Publications officials meet

PRESS and publications officials in GCC states will begin their fourth meeting in Riyadh today. They will discuss ways of boosting information exchange between these departments, exchange visits and a report on the progress of these departments.



● Kuwait's Consul General at Milan, Yacoub Yusuf Al Mutawa, (left) recently met Milan's governor, who presented him with a medal to express the friendly relations between Kuwait and Italy.

1,600 applicants failed to contact NHA

AHMED Al Samaka, the Assistant Minister of Housing and Municipalities, said the cancellation of 1,600 applications submitted prior to 1975 had been postponed until March 5. These applicants had failed to get in touch with the authority even after repeated attempts by the NHA to contact them, he said.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti daily, Al Samaka said he had been instructed by the Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Chairman of the NHA Naser Al Roudhan to extend the period for these applicants.

Al Samaka said the period had been extended previously and that an announcement had been issued in the official gazette in December, 1987, but only 30 persons had responded, some with sufficient evidence to justify their delay.

He again called on applicants to contact the authority before the expiry date or their applications would be cancelled.

Charity House to honour martyrs' families

THE Amir Diwan Minister, Sheikh Khaled Al Ahmed, said yesterday that establishing the Sabah Family Charity House for Families of Martyrs was "another step" towards integration and social welfare between "the one family of the Kuwaiti people."

Commenting on the decision to establish the Sabah Family Charity House, Sheikh Khaled stressed that this was meant to honour the families of those who sacrificed their lives and those who would sacrifice their life in the service and defence of Kuwait.

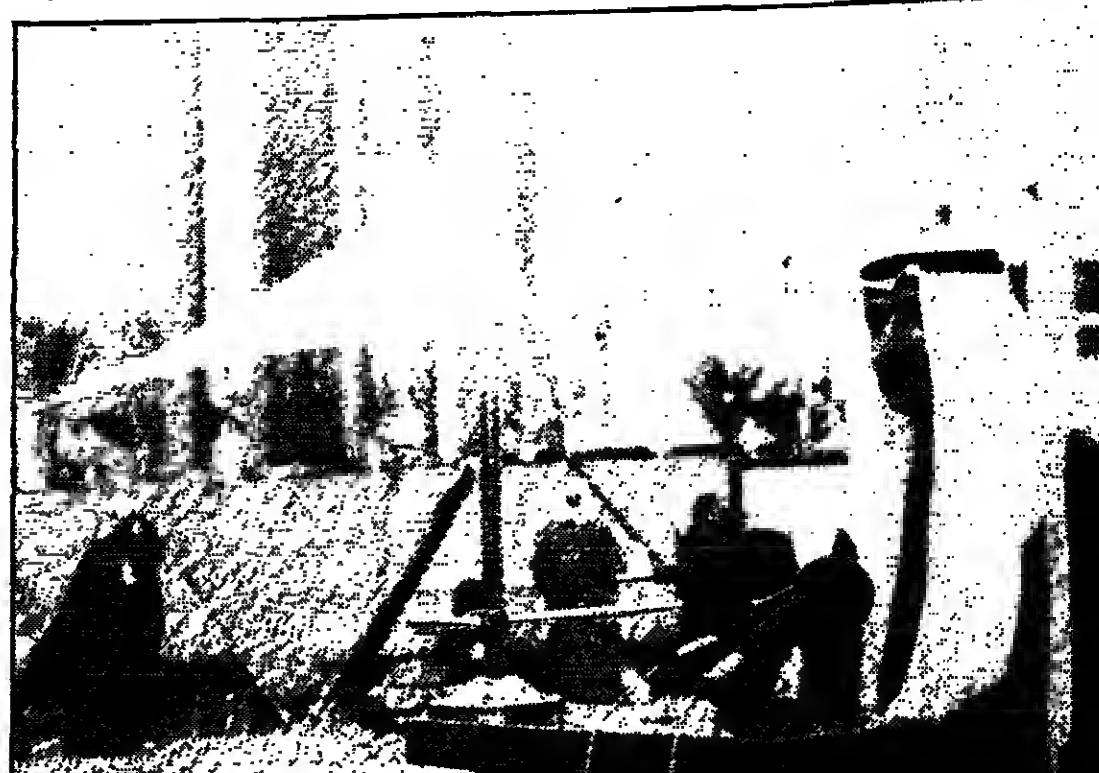
He said the families of martyrs must feel they were honoured in their homeland.

27 cars damaged

THE manager of a car company in Nagra reported to the police that somebody used a metal instrument to damage 27 cars of the company.

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Al Rifai recalls the history of Safat Square at the opening yesterday.



Traditional folk troupes and bedouin tents link the past with the present at the opening of the Safat Square Project. (Pictures by Mohammed Beda)

Safat Square Project opens

THE Safat Square Project was officially opened yesterday by Kuwait's Minister for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Al Rifai.

The square, which was designed to alleviate traffic congestion in the Safat area, features a large paved area with a huge fountain, trees and shrubs.

The project, which covers a total area of 12,000 square metres, 3,500 of which are landscaped with plants and shrubs, was built at a cost of KD4.25 million. It will be managed by the Public Utilities Company.

In his opening speech, Al Rifai recalled the history of Safat Square, saying it had been an important trading centre in Kuwait and was linked with the Kuwaiti people for over a century.

The Ministers of Social Affairs and Labour, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Sabah; Public Works, Abdul Rahman Al Houti and Minister of State for Service Affairs Issa Al Mazedi attended the opening, along with a number of undersecretaries, officials and diplomats.

Slaughterhouse earning

THE director of the slaughterhouse department at Kuwait Municipality, Sheikh Saleh Mohammed Salma Al Sabah, said that the department earned about KD 674,000 during 1987.

He said the total imported fresh meat amounted to 368,000 head of cattle and sheep.

He said a total of about two million animals were slaughtered last year at the five abattoirs in the country.

Murder trial postponed again

RIYADH, Feb 29, (AP): The trial of Paul and Monica Hall, a British couple charged with the murder of an Irish nurse nearly two years ago, was postponed today and no date was fixed for the next hearing.

A British embassy spokesman said that the latest session in the summer resort town of Taif, where the 48-year-old nurse Helen Feeney was found battered to death in April 1986, lasted for about an hour.

The Saudi judge adjourned without reaching a verdict or making it clear when the trial will reconvene, said the spokesman who could not be named under embassy rules.

Other sources said that the trial was likely to resume in about two weeks time because the judge would need time to sift through a huge amount of paperwork. They did not elaborate.

The trial started on Feb 6 in Taif, about 1,000 kilometres away from Riyadh. The trial took an unexpected turn at the last hearing a week ago when the couple, both in their late 30's, withdrew their earlier confession of guilt and pleaded innocent.

The Halls, according to the embassy spokesman, reiterated their wish to withdraw their previous confession and told the court that they are both happy with the treatment they have received in the 20 months of their incarceration.

This appeared to contradict the testimony they made last week that their previous admission of guilt was made under duress.

They were also quoted as saying that they are healthy and doing well.

Miss Feeney, from county

Utilities company maintaining car parks

THE Director-General of Kuwait's Public Utilities Company Abdul Rahman Mubarak Al Qawood said the company is responsible for maintenance services, revenue collection, security and management of public buildings, multi-storey parking facilities and bachelor towns.

Al Qawood said that the company originally managed five car parks and the Gold Market. The work has expanded, he said, to include the stock exchange market, bachelor towns, the used car market and the sheep market.

He explained that shop rental at the Gold Market had dropped significantly from 1984. The company is planning to diversify the types of businesses at the market and to allow, if approved by the ministries, non-Kuwaitis to have businesses there.

Al Qawood said the General Traffic Department at the Interior Ministry has assigned the company to take care of coin-operated parking facilities.

Abu Ghazala's message for Sheikh Sabah

KUWAIT'S Acting Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, yesterday received a message from Egypt's Deputy Premier and Minister of Defence and Military Production and Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Army Field Marshal, Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala.

Sheikh Sabah told newsmen that the message, delivered by a special envoy Ahmed Halim in the presence of the Egyptian Ambassador Saeed Refaat, was on bilateral relations and means of fostering them in all fields.

The message also falls in line with follow up of the issues discussed during Abu Ghazala's visit to the country last December, he said.

Sheikh Sabah later received a Swiss Foreign Ministry envoy Alfred Rugg who is currently visiting here within the framework of a Gulf tour. Cordial ties and developments of the situation in the Gulf were discussed.

Sheikh Sabah also received the Minister of Defence Sheikh, Nawaf Al Ahmed.

UAE studying ten-year residence

THE Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry is studying a proposal to grant some expatriates living in the United Arab Emirates ten-year residence permits. These expatriates would act as their own sponsors and have the right to renew their residency for another ten-year period.

The proposal, published in the Al Bayan daily, calls for very careful selection of expatriates and aims at providing designated expatriates with stability which will enable them to invest surplus funds in the UAE markets, thus contributing to its growth.

The proposal also includes allowing "certain sections of expatriates" with the right to start private businesses and exemption from deportation in cases of conviction of crimes, sentencing them to jail only. These expatriates would also be allowed to sponsor their families.

Death for murdering money-exchanger

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a man to death for the premeditated murder of a money-exchanger.

According to testimony given in court, the defendant, claiming to be a security officer, took the victim to a desert area near Ahmadia where he killed the man and then robbed his shop.

Security men found the body of the victim off a desert road in the Ahmadia Governorate. They knew the defendant would be trying to change the various currencies he had stolen, so they contacted other money-exchangers.



● The head of Kuwait's permanent delegation to the United Nations and Kuwait's Consul General at Karachi held parties to celebrate Kuwait's 27th National Day. Top picture shows the Consul General at Karachi, Hamed Al Nasser (centre) talking to the chief minister of Sind (right) and another guest. Bottom picture shows the head of the permanent delegation to the UN, Mohammad Abul Hassan (second left), receiving guests.



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Salhiya Complex, Block 4, First Floor, 2-5pm, with photograph and certificates.

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Ghazal singers revisit Kuwait



Jagjit and Chitra Singh: together they make music

BEHIND every successful man there is a woman. This couldn't be more true about Chitra and Jagjit Singh. Chitra Singh, who accompanies her husband on musical concerts, is said to be the "driving force behind" Jagjit.

When Jagjit and Chitra married, they combined the joie de vivre of Punjabi folk sounds (Jagjit Singh is a Punjabi) and the sweet melody of Bengali music (Chitra hails from West Bengal) to create refreshing sounds.

A gifted singer Chitra, who had made her mark in singing ghazals written by Meer, Ghadib, Momio and Jigar, became Jagjit's singing partner. Together, they overcame odds and revived ghazal, a blend of verse and music which is part of the cultural scene in the sub-continent.

Series

Many critics say that the duo catapulted to fame after giving a series of concerts abroad in the 1970s. One of the countries they visited during that period was Kuwait. Then, they were fresh and enthusiastic to push the form of music they specialised in. Now, they are at the peak of their career and have been dubbed as the "king and queen" of ghazal and are returning to perform on Friday night at the Kuwait Hilton Hotel.

Jagjit Singh was brought up

in Rajasthan, which is known as the cradle of Indian folklore. At an early age he began training under Ustad Jamal Khan to learn the finer aspects of classical music. Because of a rich, resonant voice he blossomed into a fine vocalist and began

composing, creating catchy rhythms and soulful music. His tunes are based on ancient ragas which are embellished with modern sounds.

Ghazal music originated in Mughal courts and was considered a preoccupation of the

elites. Earlier this century, only a handful of singers like Talat Mahmood, Aktari Bai, Faizabadi and others upheld the tradition of the ghazal.

Interest in this type of music had tapered and become min-

imal until such singers as Jagjit and Chitra Singh and Mehdi Hassan came to the fore.

New wave

The singing duo are largely responsible for pioneering what is now known as the new wave of ghazals and bringing this form of music to the masses. Verse and music were simplified so that the man on the street understood it. The music of Jagjit and Chitra was lapped up by the masses partly because of the deteriorating standard of Hindi film music, which had in one way contributed to the extinction of the ghazal.

Thought popular, they have been criticised for "the sameness" of their music and "unchanging style." Despite what critics say, they have carved a niche for themselves in the ghazal music scene in India, recording 14 discs in the last decade, including the Unforgettables, Milestone, Ghazal, Your Choice and a series of bhajans (devotional songs).

Jagjit has composed music for many Hindi films, among them are Arth, Avishkar, Satyameva Jayate, Premgeet, His forthcoming films are Nirvana, Raah-e-Aaj and Ashiana.

They have also encouraged such newcomers as Talat Aziz, Ghansyam Vaswani, Vinod Sehgal, Ashok Khosla and others.

FA

Absurd but hilarious

By Keith Wells

DO you ever get into a situation where nothing seems to make sense, but it's all terribly funny? Yes, KTV News is a perfect example. Well, that kind of surreal comedy is the essence of the Theatre of the Absurd, a movement that began in France after the Second World War as various playwrights tried to create a new kind of drama that somehow would capture the illogicality of existence.

Perhaps the best known example of this type of play is Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" where two tramps sit around waiting for something to happen. It never does, but in the waiting they come up with hilarious non sequiturs, strange elusive insights and some of the funniest moments ever written for the stage.

Eugene Ionesco was a pioneer of this kind of theatre and his play "The Bald Soprano" is a short, but classic, example of Absurdist drama that alternates between hilarity and unreality, between the artificial and the surreal. It is being

staged by the American Community Theatre at the Mousetrap Theatre from March 7 to March 10.

On the same bill is another one act play, "The American Dream" by Edward Albee who also wrote "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf". This play is a bit more realistic than "The Bald Soprano", but is, if anything, even funnier. But make no mistake, although they will make you laugh, these plays are not just empty-headed farces. They are thought-provoking and stimulating attempts to see behind the reality of ordinary life to the hidden depths of human existence. We laugh, but it makes us think at the same time.

Amateur Dramatics in Kuwait provide lots of harmless fun, but in attempting to stage these two plays, the ACT is offering a rare chance for Kuwait audiences to see something more satisfying. Titled, "An Evening of Absurdity," this production could prove to be one which will linger in the heart and mind long after the laughter stops.

Listeners write to the BBC

LONDON (EPS) — Listeners from around the world sent the BBC External Services a record number of letters in 1987.

More than 530,000 were received at Bush House, the London headquarters of BBC overseas broadcasting, compared with 487,000 in 1986. Listeners in China sent the most — more than 5000 a month in November and December, up from an average 1000 a month during the year.

In response to BBC External Services broadcasts to Burmese, more letters were received than for any other language — 86,000. Runner-up was the BBC World Service in English, which prompted 83,500 letters.

Listeners to Hindi with 62,290 letters, Arabic with 60,566 and Bengali with 26,618 letters were the next most frequent correspondents.

African language services prompted 21,125 letters to Hausa and 19,525 to Swahili, while African Alternative — broadcast in English — produced 13,548 written responses. There were 17,014 letters from Indonesia and 2443 from listeners in Brazil.

For further details contact 4877793. Daniela, a Danish group, invites all Danes to a coffee morning in Kuwait Towers from 9.30 am on March 6. For details contact Marianne 3948953 or Ingelise — 3903464.

Kuwait Irish Society St Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact — 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

Flightriders If your child is a B.A. flight rider member and has not received invitation to Flightrider Party on March 3 contact 2413868 or 2425496.

Ghazal Singers Well-known Indian ghazal singers Jagjit and Chitra Singh will give a concert on March 4, Friday, at the Kuwait Hilton. Tickets on sale at the hotel.

Interscholl Knockout '88 Interscholl Knockout '88 will take place at the Holiday Inn Hotel. Games featuring students and teachers will be held for three nights. For details contact the Holiday Inn hotel.

Raft Race Raft Race 1988 entry forms

WHAT'S ON THEATRE ACT ACT presents "An Evening of Absurdity" from March 7 to 10 at 8 pm at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School, featuring two absurdly comic one-act plays, The Bald Soprano by Eugene Ionesco and The American Dream by Edward Albee. A special discount will be given for all opening-night tickets. For reservations ring 5639204/5620332/5725071.

Kuwait Little Theatre KLT will perform the Vicar of Wakefield, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith, in March. Gala evening on March 14 at 7.30 pm. Repeat performances on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8.15 pm. For reservations ring 3983724.

Kuwait Players "Antidote," a fast moving



Vaisali

AN Indian living in Kuwait M. M. Ramachandran is producing a Malayalam film called "Vaisali". The film based on mythology was recently launched in Madras, India. A big budget movie, it stars a newcomer Suparna in the lead. The film scripted by M. T. Vasudevan Nair, is being directed by Bharathan. Above: Suparna with co-star Geeta. Right: a scene from the Vaisali.



Azkoul finds the soul of guitar

ARAB classical guitarist Jad Azkoul says he strives to become "one with the music" he plays. Azkoul, who recently gave a series of concerts in the US, says he masters the techniques of his art. "But I am careful not to allow the means to become the goal."

The Lebanese-American musician believes that "many people try hard to become real musicians but instead they become real technicians." The guitar is just an instrument — an extension of his feelings.

Notes "If you can understand yourself better you'll have a better understanding of mankind, emotions and love," he says. Azkoul's goal is not professional success. "This is secondary. What is important is spiritual growth."

Azkoul's intimacy with his musical instrument has been compared to the cloud and rain, the flower and aroma. One critic put it: "We know the guitar has a soul. Azkoul has found it."

Uruguayan composer Abel Carlevaro, who is Azkoul's mentor, has designed the guitar used by the Lebanese-American musician. The non-symmetrical guitar, says Azkoul, allows him to produce clearer notes.

In pursuit of music, Azkoul travelled to Latin America and Europe. If the "world was a different kind of place" he would make his base in Lebanon and visit other countries. He is very sensitive about the plight of his native country, Lebanon, and says "I have not lost hope, not even when things look the blackest."

Azkoul believes his Arab background, the sounds he heard and the images of the Middle East, are reflected in his music.

"Even when I play Western music there is something from the East there," he says. But the artist has reservations about some modern Arab musicians, especially those who use electrical guitars.

"They are bluffing — telling the Arab people they are innovators by strumming on all the Western instruments," he says.

A nother issue that bothers Azkoul is that some Arab artists believe that if a musician does not compose, "his mission is not complete."

Azkoul says interpreting music is as important as composing and "success is achieved when a musician can play the music and it sounds as if he is creating it, although he knows someone else wrote it."

Azkoul's music took him to various corners of the world including the UAE and Jordan and he has performed worldwide. Azkoul says the tours are aimed at introducing the "beauty of the guitar as an instrument for classical music."

Azkoul lives in Geneva where he is a professor at the Conservatoire Populaire de Musique (Kuma)

revue of comedy sketches and songs will be presented by Kuwait Players from May 9. Auditions will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel on March 1, 7.30 to 9.30 pm. For any queries contact Paul — Tel: 5611546.

Rock 'n' Romance Kuwait Players present Rock 'n' Romance — a rock show with a romantic touch at the Regency Palace Hotel at 8 pm on March 20, 21, 22, 23, and at 3 pm and 8 pm on March 24. For reservations call 5624175 (after 2 pm); 5745838.

SOCIAL Swedish Ladies Get-together The next coffee afternoon will be held on March 1, Tuesday, from 4 pm at the residence of Mrs Brit-Marie Bonnan.

Ladies Tea Party The International Ladies Tea Party will hold a fancy dress competition at their next meeting on March 2 at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel. A karate

expert will demonstrate self-defence techniques. For participating contact 5317390; 5386297.

Mina Bazaar A Mina Bazaar will be held on March 4 at 9 am at the EPI ground, Sulabikhat, to mark the Independence Day of Bangladesh. A cricket match between Bangladesh Reds and Bangladesh Greens will also be held. All are welcome.

Kuwait Welsh Society Annual St David's Day dinner at Messilah Beach Hotel on Tuesday, March 1. Singer Doreen Lewis will provide entertainment. For tickets and further details phone 4874548; 3910875; 3912384.

Photography Contest Kapilku has extended the deadline for the Photography Contest. All entries must be submitted on or before March 31. Entrants must state the Kapilku ID number on all entries. The entries will be judged on April 7. Winning entries will be displayed at an exhibition hall (venue will be announced later). For further details contact 4877793.

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SPORTS

Raft Race Raft Race 1988 entry forms

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News via Satellite
- 3.30 Ibtal Al Mu'Laeb: cartoon serial
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.05 World News via Satellite
- 4.15 Ghadah Al Sahara: new daily serial, featuring Sahar Rami, Abdul Rahman Al Rish, Tahath Hamdi.
- 5.15 Al Manabul: children's serial, starring Ahmad Qawadani, Tayseer Altiya.
- 6.15 You and Your Health: local programme, hosted by Dr Rashed Al Owaish.
- 6.50 News Summary
- 7.00 Afaq Al Faon: presented by Abdul Rasool Sulman.
- 7.25 Annual World: tonight's episode examines marine life.
- 8.00 Hadith Al Usbooh: religious talk by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar.
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Pages from the History of Kuwait: prepared and presented by Saif Marzouk Al Shamlao.
- 10.50 Surag Al Simt: daily Arabic serial, starring Sana Jami, Hamdi Gbait, Anwar Ismael, Mimi Jamal, Ahmad Badr.



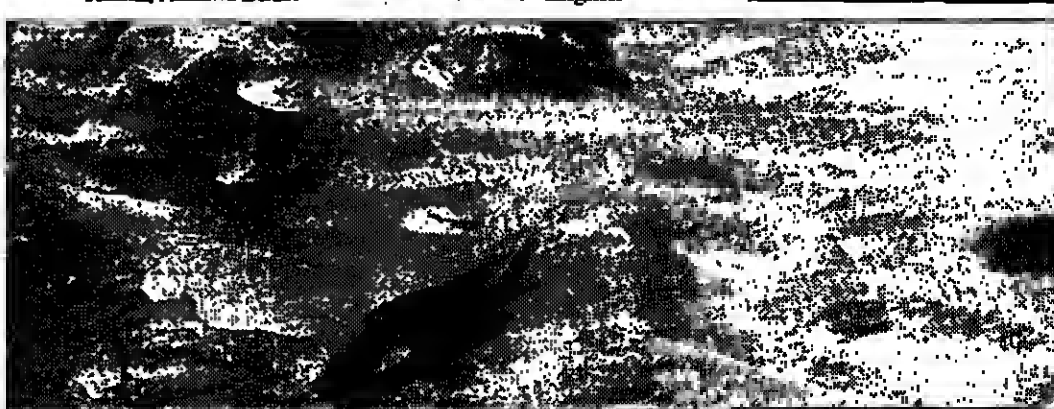
Rock and Rumble is the title of tonight's episode of Heart of the City, 8.50 pm on KTV 2.

- 11.30 News Summary
- 11.35 World News via Satellite
- 12.15 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Rainbow Bright: cartoons.
- 6.30 Side Kicks: "Petty Cash." Arnie rehearse for a school play in which he plays a major role.
- 7.00 Beyond 2000: this episode examines improved safety equipment such as safety belts, preventing accidents on planes and high-speed patrol boats.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 You and the Law: a local programme.
- 8.50 Heart of the City: "Rock and Rumble." A policeman kills a member of a notorious gang.
- 9.30 Documentary on Kuwait.
- 10.00 Tracey Ullman Show: a 30 minute comedy featuring short sketches, including Meg's Shower.
- 10.30 Feature Film: "Reviera."
- 12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



Animal World explores marine life at 7.25 pm on KTV 1.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

MORNING

- 08.00 Opening
- 08.02 Songs and Music
- 08.05 Thoughts in Islam
- 08.20 Songs and Music
- 08.30 NEWS
- 08.40 Songs and Music
- 08.45 Daily Programme
- 09.00 Songs and Music
- 09.30 They Sold A Million
- 10.00 Our Press Today
- 10.05 Songs and Music
- 11.00 Closedown
- 13.30 NEWS on FM Service

EVENING

- 21.00 Opening
- 21.02 In The Latin Mood
- 21.30 NEWS
- 21.45 Point of View
- 21.55 Songs and Music
- 22.00 Religious Programme
- 22.15 In The Groove
- 22.45 Daily Programme
- 23.00 Hit Special
- 23.30 Jazz in Action
- 24.00 Closedown

BBC World Services

0000 World News

- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newsworld
- 30 Best on Record
- 0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 30 Short Story
- 45 The Unclaimed Promise (ex 29th)
- 0200 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Network UK
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 The World Today
- 30 John Peel

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait

- Granada Pharmacy Rashed Bldg., Fahad Al Saleh St.
- Bakhsamy Pharmacy Sharq Roundabout, Ahmad Al Jaber St.

Hawalli and Negra

- Al Kindi Pharmacy Near Asian Olympic Council Bldg., Jabriya.
- Salniya and Rumaithiya Al Sima Pharmacy Baghdad St.
- Fahsheel and Almadhi Al Bastoor Pharmacy Qais Al Ghanem Bldg., Dabbous St., Fheel

Farwaniya

- Al Jazira Pharmacy Hmoud Sanwan Bldg., Main St.
- Jahra Al Noor Pharmacy Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matafi St.

Urdu

1900 Opening

- 1910 Behereen Qaul
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 Press Report
- 1940 Radio Club
- 2000 News
- 2015 Asj ka Inkhilab
- 2030 Learning Arabic
- 2040 Jahan Numa
- 2100 Closedown

ALL TIMES GMT

FM Services

0800 Easy Listening

- 0830 News
- 0840 Easy Listening
- 1000 Songs and Music
- 1330 News
- 1340 Easy Listening
- 1400 Classical Music
- 1600 Easy Listening
- 1700 Italian Hour
- 1800 Pops
- 2130 Pops
- 2200 Indian Classical Hour
- 2300 Easy Listening
- 2400 Instrumental Listening

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus

- The Living Daylights Starring: Timothy Dalton

Al Sahniya

- Legal Eagle Starring: Robert Redford

Al Hamra

- Al Nimr Wal Unsa (Arabic) Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim

Drive-In

- Al Mal'oub (Arabic) Starring: Mahmoud Yaseen, Imaan.

Al Firdous

- Sindoor (Hindi) Starring: Jaya Prada

Fahsheel Open-Air

- Samrat (Hindi) Starring: Mahmoud Yaseen, Imaan.

Al Fahsheel

- Sword and the Sorcerer

PRAYERS

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| Fajr | 4.54 am |
| Zuhr | 12.00 |
| Asr | 3.19 pm |
| Maghreb | 5.48 |
| Isha | 7.05 |

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE golden age only comes to men when they have forgotten gold — G K Chesterton, English author (1874-1936).

OPINION

Israeli cruelty fuelling uprising

THE Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak showed a great deal of insight when he announced at the beginning of the Palestinian uprising that the autonomy proposal included in the Camp David accords was no longer relevant. He added that many things had changed in the region, and that Israel and the US should be fully aware of these changes if they really wanted peace in this area.

When Mubarak made these statements he was cognizant of the fact that the Palestinian uprising would not be easily thwarted. It is an uprising that is difficult to fight, control or predict.

Now, the US Secretary of State George Shultz, who once hated the Middle East and its problems, is back in the region. It seems that prior to his arrival he was unaware of the magnitude of the crisis. However, even in his attempts at courtesy with Israel, Shultz could not hide his recognition that Israel was obviously making several mistakes, the most important of which was its failure to recognise the magnitude of the conflict.

Israel still thinks the present situation is similar to that of 1948 when the world kept its eyes closed to the Israeli theft of Palestinian lands and the massacre of its people.

This is not the time of the former US President Truman. It is not 1917, and it is not the time of the former British Foreign Secretary and his infamous Balfour Declaration.

This is the time of satellites, enabling the whole world to watch daily the inhuman Israeli brutality.

And although the Palestinians presently combat the Israeli occupation forces with stones, it should not be assumed that these will not progress to arms and bombs and killing and bloodshed as it is seen in similar revolutions in other countries.

This was the situation that President Mubarak recognised and warned the US about. It is not a time when autonomy rule or partial settlements will be easily accepted by the uprising.

Soon, Israel and its ally, the US, will regret that they did not realise that the Palestinians in the uprising were not stupid, as they thought. The Palestinians are obviously sure of what they want; their moves are well organised, their voices are the same and their response to their leadership is an absolute obedience.

While Israel kills innocent people and breaks the arms of children, it forgets that this fuels the fire. Israel has only to listen to the slogans shouted at every funeral of a Palestinian martyr to realise they are stronger and more powerful than the hymns recited by the Israeli extremists at the Wailing Wall.

Sharon, the criminal of the 20th century, and Shamir, whose history is marred with murder and blood, will teach the Jewish people even before the Palestinians, the consequences of this extremism, which is unparalleled, except by Khomenei at the eastern gate of the Arab world.

The Israeli leadership will pay a heavy price for the demoted Mair Kahana's statement that Israel should throw the Arabs of the occupied lands to Jordan. Arabs once said they would throw Israel into the sea, and those who said it paid a price. Soon this Israeli dog will regret his words when he sees that he is the one thrown out of the Palestinian lands.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Afghan refugees anxious to go home

By Jack Reed

MUNDA, Pakistan, (UPI): Like millions of his countrymen, Afghan Mohammad Farooq ekes out a grim life in a windswept refugee camp beneath Pakistan's western mountains, anxious to return to his ravaged homeland but skeptical of Soviet withdrawal plans that hinge on this week's Geneva talks.

"We'll be the happiest lot in the world if the Russians withdraw," said Farooq, fingering his grizzled beard on the steps of a supply shack at the Munda 6 refugee camp, 40 miles (65 km) north of the frontier town of Peshawar.

"But the Russians have been trying to dupe us for the last eight years," he said. "We'll not be taken in by this."

Like many of the 5,918 registered refugees in Munda 6, Farooq knows a Soviet withdrawal alone will never allow him and his family — and 3.1 million other refugees across Pakistan — to end their exile.

"This is a miserable life," said Fazel Mohammad. "Such a bleak camp... in us, Afghanistan is a paradise. But we'll not return as long as Najibullah is there."

Enemy

"Our real enemy is not the Soviets; it's the Afghan communists," he said. "We've been fighting for the glory of Islam. We accept nothing else."

Pakistan and the Soviet-installed Kabul regime headed by Najibullah — the former boss of the Afghan secret police — resume talks in Geneva Wednesday on a Soviet withdrawal of its 115,000 occupation troops.

resistance, and the orderly return of the refugees.

In the confusion unleashed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's announcement that a withdrawal could begin by May 15 and be completed within 10 months, Pakistan has demanded the Geneva talks be merged with discussions on an interim government in Kabul.

Without a change of government, Pakistani officials argue, refugees scattered in nearly 300 camps along the Afghan border will never leave.

Though eager to withdraw, Moscow refuses to link its pullout to creation of an interim government and has accused Pakistan of attempting to sabotage the withdrawal.

Ignore

The Pakistan-based Muslim resistance, which last week offered its own proposal for an interim coalition, has vowed to ignore any accord signed at Geneva with the Najibullah regime and warned that Pakistan may be pressured by Washington into a compromise.

Washington, which would be required under the Geneva accords to halt its support for the resistance, has been sympathetic to Pakistan's position. But it also has insisted that getting the Soviets out is the priority.

In Kabul, Najibullah has not wavered from the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan's 14-month-old "national reconciliation policy" that offers posts like the culture and sports ministries to the resistance but keeps key ministries in its own hands.

If the refugees will not return home, Pakistan is stuck with them at a daily cost of \$1 million, split roughly 50-50 between Pakistan and international aid.

Beijing to streamline administration

Chinese technocrats will have more say

By Ann Scott Tyson

BEIJING: Chinese leaders have launched an ambitious drive to prevent China's overcentralised bureaucracy from stifling economic reform.

The drive calls for separating China's overlapping Communist Party and government bureaucracies, which together employ 27 million officials. It will streamline their ranks and shift power from poorly educated party cadres to technocrats better skilled in economic management.

Chinese leader Zhao says the bureaucratic shake-up, which will take years to complete, is vital to progress in the nation's market-oriented economic reforms, which have slowed after nearly a decade of dramatic achievements.

"Without reform of the political structure, reform of the economic structure cannot succeed in the end," Zhao said, as he outlined the administrative changes in a speech to the 13th

party congress last October.

The most controversial task is to end the Communist Party's direct involvement in government affairs. A few cities and provinces began experimenting with the policy early last year, but the pace and scope of implementation have accelerated since the party congress.

"It is essential... to change that old custom and tradition of having the party committee monopolise everything," Zhao said in a speech to party leaders Oct 14.

Intertwined

Zhao and other leaders stress that the separation of party and government will not weaken the party's ultimate power. It has, however, stirred opposition from among China's millions of party cadres, who fear that without direct control over the government administration their prestige and influence will wane.

Moreover, Chinese leaders face a daunting task as they move to disentangle the nation's unwieldy party government



Zhao Ziyang, which have grown increasingly intertwined since the communists took power in 1949. In the 1950s, the leaders of China's revolution consolidated their power by setting up a vast hierarchy of party organisations to infiltrate and control the government administration from top to bottom.

"Without the approval of

party secretaries, the heads of government departments could not make any important decisions or handle important matters," the official China Daily newspaper commented last month.

Today, reforms are aimed at ending the party's 39-year-old practice of dominating the administration — from education, labour, agriculture, and commerce, to garbage collection and anti-spitting campaigns.

Disbanding

"(Party) leaders must avoid getting entangled in a pile of routine affairs. They cannot truly play a leading role if they are entangled in trivia all day long," stressed Zhao, general secretary of the 46 million-member party.

In the northeastern city of Harbin, a pioneering community administrative reform, government officials used to complain that they "could not even decide what side of the street a rubbish bin should be put" without the party's approval, according

to the official magazine Outlook.

Today, Harbin, Peking, and other Chinese cities and provinces nationwide are in the process of disbanding hundreds of party organs that are directly engaged in administration, especially those handling economic regulation.

Party cadres from the dismantled departments are being transferred to government jobs, demoted to serve in grass-roots party organisations, or retired. The changes have alarmed many low- and middle-level party cadres, who realise that the reforms will end their absolute and long undisputed power over cities, neighbourhoods, factories, schools, and other workplaces.

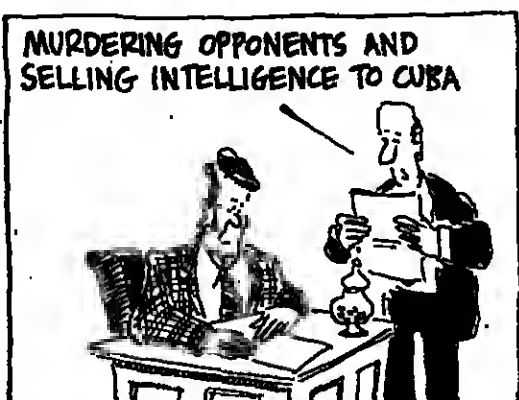
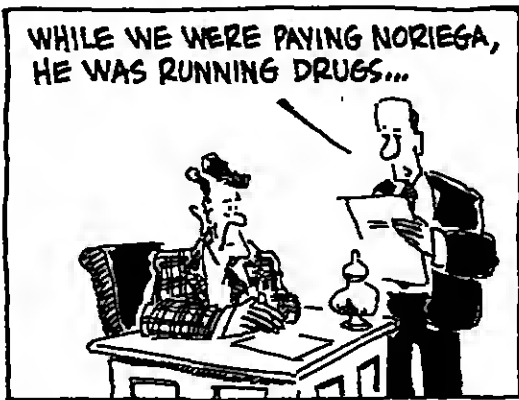
"In the past, if people didn't take heed of what I said, I could cut their wage or their bonus," said Tian Chengping, party secretary of Peking's western district, which initiated the reforms late last year. "Now we have to depend on ideological persuasion."

Chinese leaders seek to establish a strict division of labour between the party's "political cadres" and the government's "professional cadres." The party is to make "major decisions," provide ideological leadership, and recommend candidates for top government posts, while government technocrats manage the economy and administration.

Left with the increasingly thankless task of disseminating political and ideological propaganda, some party cadres are taking jobs as factory directors or switching to other positions that will benefit from the restructuring.

The next indication of the progress of the reforms is expected to come when China's nominal parliament, the National People's Congress, opens its annual session March 25. The Congress is scheduled to announce specific plans for trimming the central government bureaucracy.

The Christian Science Monitor



Panama crisis

No serious challenge to Noriega

By Bernd Debusmann

PANAMA CITY, (Reuters): Panama's latest political crisis has highlighted the weakness of domestic opposition to General Manuel Antonio Noriega and diplomats here say he is unlikely to be forced from power soon.

Noriega faced an unprecedented constitutional challenge to his de facto rule on Thursday when the country's figurehead civilian president, Eric Arturo Delvalle, announced he had decided to dismiss the general as head of the armed forces.

Within hours, Panama's parliament met in emergency session and fired Delvalle instead, saying his move violated the constitution and had been inspired by the United States.

The cabinet named a new president, Education Minister Manuel Solis Palma, and commanders of the 16,000-strong armed forces declared their solidarity with Noriega.

"Noriega made very astute moves," said a European ambassador. "He had apparently expected a manoeuvre to get him out, he was prepared for it, and he came out on top."

Hiding

After saying he still considered himself Panama's legal president, Delvalle eluded a tight military guard round his home, climbed over a fence and went into hiding.

In Washington, the Reagan administration declared it still recognised Delvalle. But

diplomats here thought he had virtually no hope of being restored to the presidency.

"Delvalle has no power base and little credibility as an opposition figure," said a Latin envoy.

While he served as nominal president, Delvalle showed no sympathy for the Civic Crusade, an anti-Noriega movement which last year sought to hasten the end of military rule by organising demonstrations of mostly middle-class Panamanians who waved white handkerchiefs at the guns of security forces.

Last year, Delvalle repeatedly attempted to ban anti-Noriega demonstrations, branding them subversive attempts to undermine the government.

The crusade ran out of momentum when the government responded with force, using tear gas and shotguns against demonstrators who had no taste for violence.

While leaders of the Civic Crusade have likened it to the broad-based movement which swept Ferdinand Marcos from power in the Philippines, it failed to produce a leader of the stature of Corason Aquino.

"There is no sign of the opposition here becoming any more effective in the future than it has been in the past eight months," said a Western diplomat. "It is still largely restricted to the middle class and it still lacks a charismatic figure."

The limits of support for anti-Noriega moves have been thrown into sharp focus by a long

string of strike calls since mid-1987, most of which drew little more than lukewarm response.

Noriega has been the target of increasingly bitter criticism both at home and from the United States, where US grand jurors this month indicted him on charges of taking \$4.6 million in bribes in return for turning Panama into a conduit for Colombian cocaine.

But Washington, which has 10,000 troops stationed along the strategic Panama Canal, has ruled out using force in ousting Noriega and is seeking political, diplomatic and economic options to break his hold on power.

Challenging

On the diplomatic front, there were signs that few countries were prepared to follow the United States in challenging the legitimacy of the new government here.

Chiefs of diplomatic missions were called to a Foreign Ministry briefing on Saturday to listen to what one described as a "presentation aimed at dispelling doubts over the constitutionality of the changes in Panama."

While some of the envoys thought that the dismissal of Delvalle was on the edge of legality, there appeared consensus that the basis of Solis Palma's appointment was no more or less shaky than had been Delvalle's in 1985 when he took office after the military forced the resignation of elected President Nicolas Ardito Barletta.

By Charles Mitchell

MOSCOW, (UPI): The unprecedented displays of nationalism and civil disobedience in Soviet Armenia are testing the limits of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's tolerance of dissent while providing his conservative opposition with some useful ammunition to try and slow the pace of his democratic reforms.

Also at stake is Gorbachev's international image as a "new breed" of Soviet leader, one who prefers to use reason rather than tanks and troops to crush challenges to Moscow's authority.

So far Gorbachev has pursued negotiations with the nationalists meeting Armenian poetess Silva Kaputikyan in the Kremlin Friday and issuing his own verbal plea for calm. Under previous governments the demonstrations in Yerevan would surely have been history by now, stamped out by force.

By all indications, the protests involving tens of thousands of people have been generally peaceful, with some demon-

Demonstrations a test of Gorbachev's patience

strators even displaying Gorbachev's portrait as a show of appreciation for his reforms.

In the past 18 months the Soviet Union has been shaken by the most frequent and large-scale manifestations of anti-Soviet nationalist feelings and disregard for central authority in many of the country's 15 republics ever reported in the 70 years of communist power.

Rioting

In December 1986, large scale rioting broke out in Alma Ata, the capital of the Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan after an ethnic Russian was placed in charge of the local party. Demonstrations involving tens of thousands of nationalists have taken place in the three Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, which were taken over by the Soviet Union in 1940.

At least nine different demonstrations have been admitted in those areas since June.

Last July, about 300 Crimean Tatars staged an unprecedented

two-day sit-in in Red Square demanding a return to their ethnic homeland from which they were deported by Josef Stalin after World War I. Thousands of Tatars have continued public protests in Tashkent Uzbekistan seeking a return to the Crimea.

In January the largest public protest in years involving more than 100 Jewish Refuseniks took place in Moscow.

Tolerance

But the Yerevan protests seeking a return to Armenian control of the predominantly Armenian Nagorno Karabakh autonomous region which has been under control of the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan since 1923 are the largest and potentially the most damaging both internally and externally in Gorbachev's yet.

According to some Western diplomats there are two key reasons behind the upsurge of these public displays of nationalism, the most important of which

is the Kremlin's greater tolerance of dissent under Gorbachev's glasnost (openness) and perestroika (reorganisation) policies. The second is that nationalists all over the Soviet Union may interpret this greater tolerance as a weakening of the political will in the Kremlin to maintain order at all costs.

After all, the Crimean Tatars managed to win some concessions and a government commission to look into their complaints with their protests.

With the Kremlin willing to listen, the ethnic minorities who have been voiceless are demanding to be heard.

Growth

Gorbachev himself has recognised the critical situation that has sprung up around the nationalists problem, perhaps the most vexing and potentially explosive internal issue facing the communist leadership.

"Today we speak about the growth of the national awareness

of all nations and people's of our country, about manifestations of national feelings. The manifestations sometimes being in a deformed way. All these are topical questions and they have to be solved," Gorbachev told the Communist Party plenum in Moscow Feb 18.

The Communist Party daily Pravda has frequently warned this growth in nationalism cannot be tolerated and defended the Kremlin's policy of sending out ethnic European Russians to head communist parties of such far flung republics as Kazakhstan, whose main task is often viewed as the Russification of the region.

It is this very colonial mentality in its governing relations with the republics that has spurred resentment in the non-Russian republics. Gorbachev has increasingly expressed his disappointment with the economic performance of the non-Slavic republics and has reacted by sending more

European Russians to take key posts in outlying republics and push his reform policies there.

The republics in turn feel they do not get enough return from Moscow for their economic contributions of raw materials and resources and being made work harder with no tangible material benefits.

Part of the explosion is nationalism has been the government's inability to face the nationalist issue head-on, instead blaming on outside interference from the West.

Plot

In a speech last September KGB chief Victor Chebrikov said the "virus of nationalism" was a Western plot to undermine the Soviet Union's economy.

Such attitudes do nothing to mask the root of the problem: dissatisfaction with the overbearing central control practised by Moscow often with little regard to national sensitivities and realities.

Armenian

On the trail of 'The Last Emperor' in China Treading new ground in cinema

By George Parry

It is an irony typical of the industry that the director who recently picked up the most Academy Award nominations had to endure a fallow period of seven years between films and only made *The Last Emperor* on the rebound from the cancellation of another project.

Bernardo Bertolucci explains: "You know how the adventure started? I was quite unhappy because the movie I had been preparing for two years collapsed suddenly. So I wanted to go as far away as possible. Somebody had given me a book to read about the last emperor of China. So I went to China."

Bertolucci is remarkable for his success in treading new ground in the cinema. Originality is often not considered compatible with box-office popularity, but *The Last Emperor*, apart from its Oscar potential, has had gratifyingly high returns all over the world. "I have had the feeling," he says, "that television monoculture has made it really dangerous to do original things. But China is so original it goes beyond that."

Departure

This biographical film is something of a fresh departure in the 47-year-old director's career. His last film, *Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man* was a teasingly ambiguous kidnap story which won Ugo Tognazzi the Best Actor award at the 1981 Cannes Festival. He became internationally notorious in 1973 with *Last Tango in Paris* and in 1976 he made the long, elegiac *1900*, about the struggle of northern Italian landowners, which seems closest, in character to the new film.

In the meantime he has become a dedicated anglophile, having married the British director Claire Phipps and acquired, both brother-in-law and screenwriter in Mark Phipps, with whom he is jointly nominated for Best Adaptation.

The *Last Emperor*, which cost \$20m to make, is the life

Bernardo Bertolucci, talks about his Oscar-nominated film 'The Last Emperor' which cost \$20 million and was filmed in The Forbidden City with the cooperation of the Chinese government and the use of the Chinese Army.



Bertolucci: 'In China I was in another universe'

story of Pu Yi, who ascended the Dragon Throne at the age of three in 1908. In 1912 China became a republic, but the young emperor continued to rule within Peking's Forbidden City, which he was not allowed to leave. In the 1920s, by which time he had acquired two wives, he was expelled, and when the Japanese invaded Manchuria in 1931, Pu Yi was flattered into accepting the puppet

throne of Manchukuo. Not surprisingly, after the Second World War the communists were annoyed and flung him into jail for re-education in Maoist dogma. The man who was once attended by 1,500 eunuchs ended his days as a hicycle-riding Peking municipal gardener.

Bertolucci and his British producer, Jeremy Thomas, obtained Chinese co-operation

in the making of the film, including access to the Forbidden City itself, together with hordes of extras and the use of the Chinese Army. (The new outgoing climate also benefited Spielberg, whose *Empire of the Sun*, a different kind of Chinese-based epic, has been chosen for next month's Royal Film Performance).

"They allowed us to shoot everywhere I wanted," says Bertolucci, "even in courtyards which had been locked for 50 years. When the rusty locks were opened we found weeds everywhere."

Symptoms

Visually the film is extraordinarily sumptuous and exotic. The production designer, Fernando Scarfioni, who like the cinematographer Vittorio Storaro has worked with Bertolucci on many films, built most of the interior sets, except for the coronation room, in studios in Peking. Members of the cast were recruited from the Chinatowns of New York, San Francisco and London and had never visited their motherland before.

Says Bertolucci: "I had to tell them how to move, in that modest Chinese manner, not a Western swagger. The Chinese have a different concept of time, a different pace of work. To stay in Peking was just too expensive, and we finished the film in Rome. There were also problems of communication. We had an army of interpreters, the nicest of whom were Western students who didn't feel the need to censor what I was saying. On one occasion I had a thousand extras in costume I wanted to move right, but after the Chinese assistant had interpreted it, they all went left. We also had a scene where all the cyclists move off on a red traffic light. That actually happened for a few months during the Cultural revolution."

"It's not easy to exit from the experience of making this film. True, 1900 took longer, the shooting was 11 months. But I was in Parma, where I was born. In China I was in another universe."

From art cinema to big-time Hollywood

By Matthew Heller

LOS ANGELES, Reuter: British actor Daniel Day-Lewis thought at first that at 30 he was too young and 'completely inappropriate' for the starring role in *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*.

The film, which opened in the United States recently, is based on Czech writer Milan Kundera's philosophical novel about a womanising doctor, Tomas, caught between his love for his wife and his 'erotic friendships' with other women.

Day-Lewis, in an interview recalled thinking that Tomas' life would take an enormous amount of exploration and construction.

"When I read the book, Tomas in particular and the main characters in general only existed as vehicles for ideas. He didn't really exist for me as a character. I did not know whether it was possible to find out enough about him."

But he says it was his initial reservations about the part and his own suitability that finally drew him to it.

The film, which cost 17.5 million dollars, is Day-Lewis' first big Hollywood production.

"The possibility of making a

bad film with all these resources is absolutely terrifying. You can't help but be aware of the pressures of the money involved and the whole circus," he said.

Day-Lewis burst onto the film scene a couple of years ago with two stunning and widely-differing performances.

He played a working class homosexual in *My Beautiful Laundrette* and in inoffensive prigg from the opposite end of the British social scale in the merchant-ivory production of E.M. Forster's book *A Room With A View*.

Both were surprise hits being low-budget, small-scale and British-made.

The rave reviews for his earlier performances mean that expectations for Day-Lewis are running high.

"Before, one had the joyous experience of coming from nowhere," he said. "The reaction made me laugh. I felt like I was digging up Fulham soccer pitch (field) and the lights were turned on."

The *Unbearable Lightness of Being* is set in Czechoslovakia during and after the 'Prague Spring' of 1968.

"I'm curious about lives that appear to touch my own life on a very small level," he said. "My own life is not something I



Daniel Day-Lewis stars in *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, based on Czech writer Milan Kundera's philosophical novel about a womanising doctor.

want to reinvent on screen because it's not that interesting."

Some people might dispute that Day-Lewis is the son of the late British poet laureate Cecil Day-Lewis. His grandfather, Sir Michael Balcan, headed Britain's famous Ealing film studios and produced several classic comedies.

Day-Lewis discovered acting after being sent to a high-pressure boarding school which he hated. "It was an alternative to the nightmare I found myself inhabiting... the theatre seemed like a place that would accept me," he said.

Small parts in *Gandhi* and *The Bounty* led to what turned out to be his big break in *Laundrette*.

Day-Lewis appears awkward about bridging the gap between eccentric art films and mainstream Hollywood.

"You create a family atmosphere when you work on quirky films in England," he said. "You believe in them absolutely but you have no expectations. You make them entirely because you want to make them."

Day-Lewis has also completed another Hollywood-backed film, *Stars and Bars*, in which he plays the lead role of a disaster-prone Englishman in America.

"I would be very careful about joining the circus. You do have a sense of being a performing seal."

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): One of the most chic, sophisticated women in Hollywood is Sophia Loren, but at heart she is an Italian earth mother who prefers playing peasants to royalty — and she's done both.

She won an Academy Award in 1961 for her role of the Italian mother in *'Two Women'*. And she was the epitome of elegance in *'A Countess From Hong Kong'* and many others.

But she feels closer to Sophia Scicolone, the name she was born with in Rome in 1934, than the glamour girl she has played on occasion.

Loren, who divides her time between a green-pastured ranch some 30 miles (48 km) from Holl-

Sophia Loren prefers peasants to royalty

wood and a home in Geneva, takes on another Italian peasant role in the NBC-TV mini-series *'The Fortunate Pilgrim'*, based on Mario Puzo's book about his immigrant family.

However, seated in a luxurious hangout of the Beverly Hills Hotel, Loren looked anything but a peasant, wearing a yellow blouse and trendy short black skirt displaying her long legs to their best advantage.

Her face radiated tranquility and beauty. Her voice purled with Italian overtones as she spoke of her most recent role.

"When I first read the book 15 years ago I wanted to play the

role of mama Lucia," Loren said. "But there were complicated reasons why it could not be done. I persisted and stubbornly stayed after it. Two years ago I asked Puzo for the TV rights and a deal was put together. No one makes feature films like this anymore and the book was just the right length for a five-hour mini-series."

"I wanted to play mama Lucia because I knew those kind of women in Italy. I am from the same sort of situation. I felt close to her, a woman from a poor family who followed the stream of Italian immigrants to the United States."

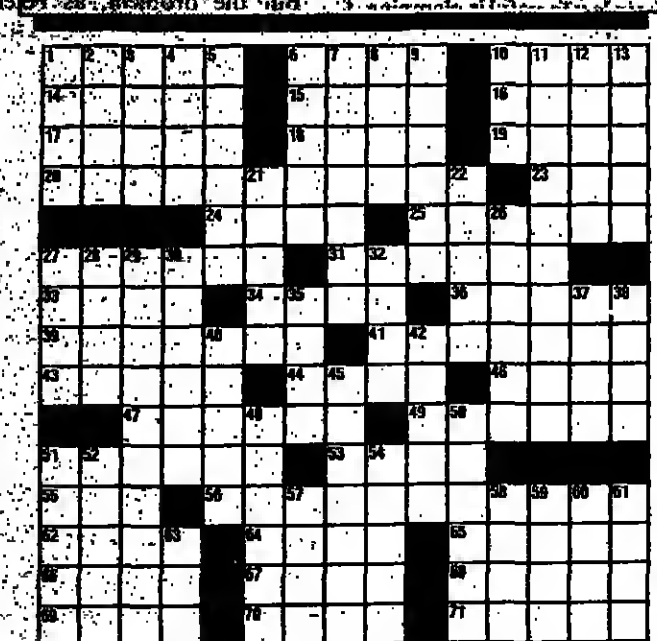
"She came from the same background, the same people I did. They had nothing to look forward to, but they worked hard to make something of themselves."

"This is the best work I have done since *'Two Women'*, and I was only 24 when I played that role. I do much better when I play earthy women because I can relate more easily to them."

"Glamour roles are fun. And it is nice to wear a fabulous wardrobe and jewels, but to make strides in my career I am better off with earthy parts, which leave me with a greater sense of accomplishment because they are more substantial."

"The Fortunate Pilgrim," to be broadcast on April 3-4, was filmed last summer in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

WORD CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Sumptuous
 - 6 Endure
 - 10 Essence
 - 14 Knight wear
 - 15 Smelter's materials
 - 16 Toward the center
 - 17 Mother-in-law of Ruth
 - 18 No charge
 - 19 Amaze
 - 20 Parts of a physical
 - 23 Tokyo from Shanghai
 - 24 Russian press org.
 - 25 Commences
 - 27 Bubbled
 - 31 Footsteps
 - 33 Pavlova
 - 34 Church area
 - 36 Badger-like animal
 - 38 Wine grapes
 - 41 Descendant of Noah's son
 - 43 Up and about
 - 44 Commedia dell'arte
 - 46 Religious image
 - 47 Resident of a sort
 - 49 Highlight
 - 51 Supermarket employee
 - 53 Sagan or Reiner
 - 55 Intel
 - 56 Apathy
 - 62 Italian wine center
 - 64 'And — bed': Pepys
 - 65 Rolling stone
 - 66 Olympian's vehicle
 - 67 Historians' interests
 - 68 Grenoble's rival
- DOWN
- 9 Brooklyn College president
 - 10 Robert L. —
 - 11 Auction
 - 12 Is concerned
 - 13 Feeds the flama
 - 14 Part of QED
 - 15 February figure
 - 16 Undetermined quantity
 - 17 Sorrowful
 - 18 Hits a high fly
 - 19 Checks
 - 20 Matches, in poker
 - 21 African fly
 - 22 PFC's
 - 23 Small narrow space
 - 24 Difficult feat
 - 25 Shades
 - 26 Exceptional
 - 27 Egyptian
 - 28 Take a good look
 - 29 Suggestive of the first man
 - 27 'The Crimson Tide'
 - 28 Burden
 - 29 Provokes
 - 30 Spiking the punch
 - 32 Take it easy
 - 33 H.S. Jrs. test
 - 34 Windsor Castle's neighbor
 - 35 Pre-Easter time
 - 40 — forces
 - 42 Valentine symbol
 - 45 Musical performance
 - 48 Comes up
 - 50 Ecclesiastic
 - 51 Audacious
 - 52 Usher's beat
 - 54 Win by —
 - 55 Rail bird
 - 58 Sub — (secretly)
 - 59 Always
 - 60 Withered
 - 61 Very, in Verden
 - 63 Tags for 10 Down

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WATCH THOSE SPOTS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 9 7 5
♥ K Q 7
♦ 6 5 2
♣ 6 4 3

WEST
♠ J 3
♥ 9 6 5 4 2
♦ A J 8 3
♣ J 9

EAST
♠ Q 10 8 4
♥ 8 3
♦ Q 10 9 7
♣ Q 10 8

SOUTH
♠ A 6 2
♥ A J 10
♦ K 4
♣ A K 7 5 2

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♣

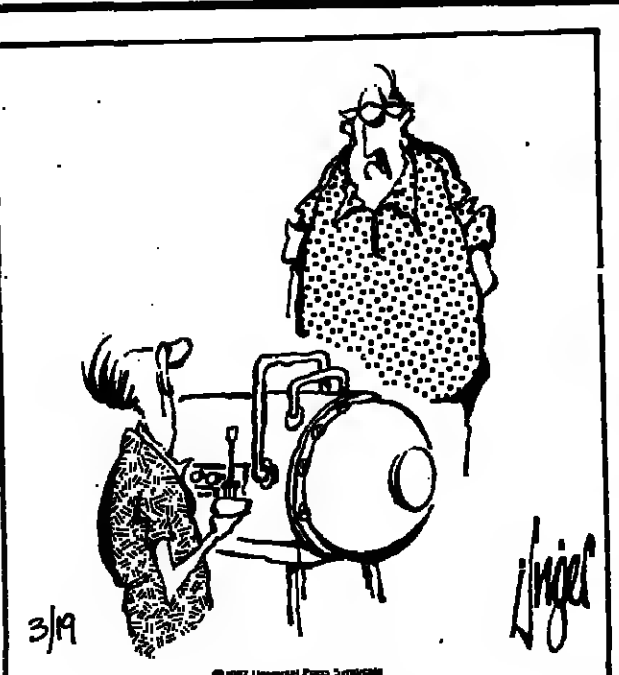
We've always enjoyed this story about the late Johnny Crawford. In a rubber bridge game, his partner had led a spade, a suit he did not like. Unfortunately, he held only two cards in the suit, and they were the eight and the nine. No matter which he played he was sure partner would read it as encouraging. So Crawford dropped a card on the floor and, as he bent to pick it up, he called out: "Low spade partner!"

The point of the foregoing is simply to tell you that you must always be alert. What looks like a high card in one circumstance can be a low card in another. South was aware of the spots on this hand; as might be expected, East was not alive to the position.

A routine auction got North-South to their three no trump contract. South's rebid showed a balanced 19-20 points, but North had no ambitions.

West carefully led his second-highest heart to show no real interest in the suit, and dummy won. Obviously, declarer needed to develop his club suit. However, in doing so he had to try to keep East off lead, for he did not want to have the king of diamonds under the gun. At trick two declarer led a club from the table, and East produced the eight. Reflex action would have been to rise with the ace or king, but declarer took careful note of the spots. The eight was the lowest outstanding club, so declarer ducked and West had to win. The rest was a mop-up operation. Declarer collected two spade tricks, three hearts and four clubs.

This story has a moral. While you prefer holding eights to deuces, don't forget that sometimes a deuce and an eight are equivalent.



"Did your mother say you could build a nuclear device?"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Drant Parker and Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)
You should keep your objectives very much in mind. Make sure you leave yourself with enough time to meet your commitments. Take the best possible care of your health. Be moderate.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
You should not try to do too many things all at the same time. Better not to rely entirely on your memory, make notes too. Little things are more important than they seem just now.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)
You should devote all your energies to the most important tasks. Leave secondary matters until later. You will have to act swiftly if you do not want a good opportunity to pass you by. Be magnanimous.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
You should not take so much exercise that you strain yourself. Make sure you take the trouble to learn how to use a new device. A friend will greatly appreciate your help and sympathy. Be a little more observant.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
You should ensure that you do not do anything rash. A good idea will help you to deal with an outstanding matter. Do not just think that all will be well in the end. Be sensible.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)
The Moon's better influence will help you to make your voice heard. You will be better able to cope with your personal affairs.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
You should devote all your energies to the most important tasks. Leave secondary matters until later. You will have to act swiftly if you do not want a good opportunity to pass you by. Be magnanimous.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You will be able to have an interesting conversation. However do not try to dominate it. Your children will be both a source of pleasure and a cause of some concern to you. Be sensible.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
You should do all you can to keep things simple. Make sure you do not strain your eyes. There is good cause for a little more optimism. Be reliable.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)
The prospect for the first part of the month are really good. Only you must not just expect good things to happen without working for them. Do not do anything you know is not right. Be tactful.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
You should make a real effort to catch up on a backlog. Take good care you do not spend more than you earn. Do all you can to avoid stress and conflict. Be forthcoming.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)
You will have to endeavour not to expose yourself to infection. You should do all you can to avoid confusion and misunderstandings. Do not gossip and do not engage in speculation. Be tolerant.

JUNIOR TIMES

Dear Junior Readers,

MANY of your schools are now planning special spring programmes and concerts. These are special events in your schools and we would like to share them with our readers.

Please send us pictures of special events your school sponsors along with a brief description of the activity and the picture. Or if you are in the Shuwalih area, you can just drop them at the Arab Times Office.

Keep your school in the news by letting the Junior Times know about your activities, then we can all enjoy what the various schools are doing.

Aunt Barbara

A garden of curiosities

1. The Greek goddess of the rainbow gives her name to what flower of varied and striking colours?
2. To what flower, with its sunburst centre and radiant petals, was Chaucer referring when he wrote "the eye of day"?
3. Why is an anemone sometimes called a windflower?
4. What type of clover was used by St Patrick as his symbol?
5. Why does the dainty pansy wear such a 'thoughtful' mien?
6. Can you describe a desert rose?
7. For whom was the poinsettia named, and why is it considered an appropriate Christmas plant?
8. Where was the scene of the agony of Jesus?
9. Where did Monet paint his famous water lilies?
10. The name of what flower is derived from the Greek word for 'testicle', which it resembles because of its double roots?

Answers:

1. Iris. 2. The daisy. 3. Because its name derives from a word influenced by anemos, the Greek word for 'wind'. 4. The shamrock, which was supposedly used by St Patrick to illustrate the Trinity because of its three leaves. 5. Because its original name was penstemon, French for 'thought' which developed into 'pansy'. 6. It is not a flower at all but a rock, consisting of grains of sand fused together, the surface of which has been eroded by the elements so that it resembles a rose. Desert roses are commonly found in the Sahara. 7. Joel Roberts Poinsett, of Charleston, South Carolina, who after a mission to Mexico, brought the plant with the large flaming leaves back to the United States. Poinsettias are favoured at Christmas because the leaves generally stay red until Easter. 8. The Garden of Gethsemane, outside Jerusalem. 9. In his garden at Giverny, France. It is being restored by the generosity of the Lila Acheson Wallace Foundation. 10. Orchid, from orchis, testicle.

LITTLE Herman went to visit his Aunt Gert. He got off the bus at the last stop. But he still had a short walk to her house. It was very cold. And to keep warm, Herman pulled himself deeper inside his long furry coat.

And he pulled his big furry hat down over his face. He looked just like a bear which is funny, because that is exactly what a passing bear thought he looked like.

"You must be my Cousin Julius!" said the bear. Grabbing Herman by the hand, the bear ran with him to his cave.

"Look who I found at the edge of the woods!" he shouted.

All the bears ran over and kissed Herman hard and wet. "Cousin Julius, Cousin Julius!" they shouted.

"My name is Herman," said Herman. But no one even heard. They were so excited.

"I'm not a bear..." Herman said.

"Dinner is ready," Mama Bear called. "Take your places, Cousin Julius, you sit here."

When Mama Bear served the soup, all the bears lapped it up with their tongues.

But not Herman. He ate politely with a spoon that he happened to have in his pocket. And when the vegetables were served, Herman ate with a fork that he happened to have in his pocket.

The bears were amazed. "My, my!" Big Brown Bear stared at Herman.

"How smart you are to learn a trick like that."

And all the bears clapped, as if they were watching a circus act.

Not THIS bear

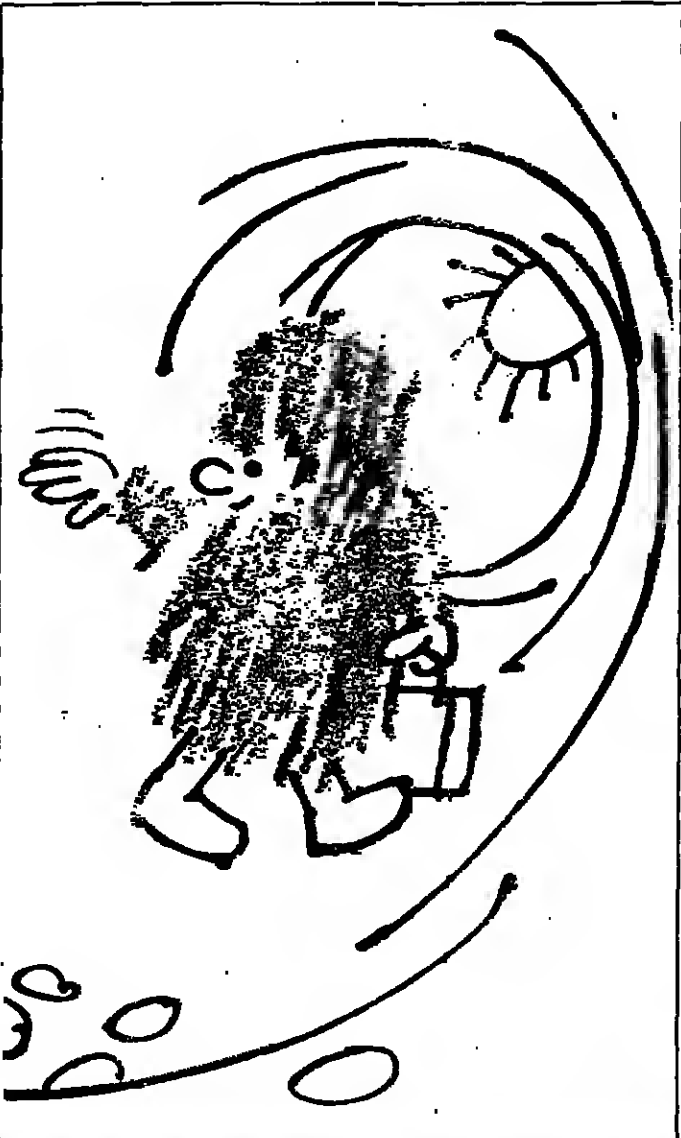
Poor Herman. He wasn't a bear. He was a little boy. He was sure of it. But the bears were just as sure that Herman was their Cousin Julius.

"So," thought Herman, "I'll just prove I'm really a boy!" He began tosing and dance and whistle; tie his shoelace and stand on his

head—all the things a boy knows how to do.

But whatever he did, the bears still thought Herman was a bear. And they clapped even harder at his tricks.

"See what happens," said Papa, "when a bear has a chance to go to the big city and learn a trade."



"What a clever cousin we have," said Big Brown Bear. And he yawned and went outside. Big Brown Bear looked at the sky and announced the time of year—winter.

"After Mama's big meal we won't have to eat again until spring," he said. And all the bears got ready to sleep.

"Remember, we sleep for at least two months," said Big Brown Bear.

"Two months?" said Herman. "I only sleep one night at a time. During the day I go out and play. I'm not sleeping through the winter!"

"But all bears do," said a baby bear.

"Not THIS bear," answered Herman. "I like winter," he said.

"He likes winter," said the bears, astonished.

"Yes, I like winter. I like to go sledding and to skate. I like to make snow men and drink hot cocoa with whipped cream. I like snowball fights with my friends, and I like to make giant tracks in the snow. And besides, I have to go to school."

When Herman finished speaking, there was a long silence. Then Big Brown Bear spoke. "Perhaps you aren't a bear after all. In fact, now that I look closer, you don't even have a nose like a bear."

"Look!" shouted a bear, removing Herman's furry hat and coat. "He's not a bear at all."

And there, shivering in the cave, stood little Herman.

"See I am a boy," he said.

Papa Bear roared with laughter. "That's the best trick of all. And the trick was on us."



Herman put on his furry hat and coat again. He said good-bye to all the bears.

"Come and visit us in spring," they yawned after him.

"I will," he answered, just to be polite. And Herman began to walk toward Aunt Gert's house.

He was almost out of the woods when a big black

burly bear, jumped out from behind a tree. Running toward Herman, the bear shouted, "Cousin Bernard..." But Herman ran just as fast as he could out of the woods.

Herman was glad when he finally reached Aunt Gert's porch. And Aunt Gert was very glad to see Herman.

Germination

WHEN a seed starts to grow into a plant, we say it has germinated. Before a seed will germinate it must have three things. It must have water. It must have warmth. It must have oxygen, from the air for breathing.

The water comes from rain. The rain soaks into the soil. The warmth comes from sunshine. Sunshine warms up the soil. The oxygen comes from the air which is trapped in little spaces between the pieces of soil.

If a seed has water and oxygen and is in warm soil, it will start to grow. A few seeds need to be in the dark before they will grow. But most seeds will grow in the light.

Parts of a seed

Seeds are of all sizes and shapes. But all seeds are alike in two ways. Every seed contains a tiny plant called an embryo. All seeds contain some food that helps the embryo plant to start growing.

If you buy a packet of seeds from a shop, you will find that they are all hard and dry. The hard coat on the outside of the seed protects the embryo plant inside from harm.

If you look closely at the

Science corner

seed you will find a little mark. This is a scar. The scar shows where the seed was joined to the inside of the fruit. On the hard seed coat you will also find a little hole. It is through this hole that moisture gets into the seed when it is planted.

Roots

When a seed such as a broad bean is sown, the first thing that happens is that the seed swells. The seed swells as it takes in moisture. Then the embryo inside starts to

grow. The skin of the seed splits and a little white root appears. The root thrusts its way down through the soil.

To protect the root from being damaged, its tip is covered with a soft, moist cap which slips easily between the pieces of soil. After a few days, tiny hairs grow out from the root. These tiny root hairs take in water. In the water is dissolved food called mineral salts. These come from the soil.

Shoots

Next a white shoot pushes upwards. Soon, when it is above ground, the shoot grows green leaves. Until this time the seedling has not been able to make any food for itself. It is fed by the two thick 'seed leaves', which make up nearly all of the inside of the seed. These seed leaves are packed with food put there by the parent plant.

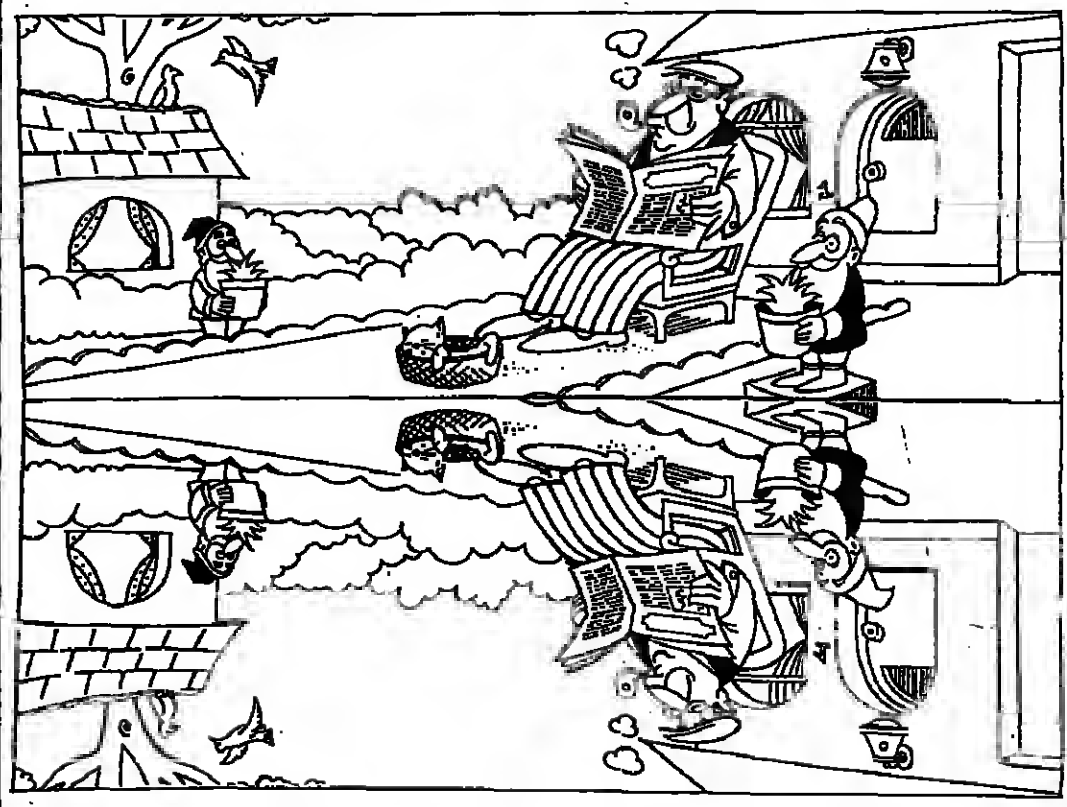
After a time, many new leaves and roots are formed. We now have a small plant. There is a little bud at the top of the plant. This will go on growing.

Sketches in germination of a broad bean



Pipe of peace

Can you spot the three errors in the reflection of the top picture?



Kuwait Knowledge.

- Answers: 1) To protect the natural wells at Jahra. 2) Entertainment City officially opened on Kuwait National Day, 1984. 3) Jorn Utzon designed the famous Sydney Opera House. 4) It takes the Kuwait Towers revolving restaurant half an hour to complete one revolution. 5) HH the Amir began his rule in 1977. 6) Kuwait's coastline is about 160 km long. 7) Kuwait. 8) Saffron is added to tea to give chai zafraan its unique taste. 9) The Museum of Islamic Art houses the private collection of Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al Sabah and Sheikh Hussa Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah. 10) Alexander the Great named Failaka Island "Ikara". 11) The national tree of Kuwait is the Palm Tree. 12) The complete name of Kuwait's zoo is the Omariya Zoo. 13) Al Sadu is the term used to describe the craft of weaving amongst the Bedouin of Arabia. 14) Doha Village.

Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS

EX-USAIR COLONEL JOE KITTINGER BECAME THE FIRST MAN TO COMPLETE A SOLO TRANS-ATLANTIC CROSSING BY BALLOON, ACCOMPLISHED IN THE HELIUM-FILLED BALLOON, GLOBE ONE, ON SEPTEMBER 14-18, 1960. KITTINGER LIFTED OFF FROM CARIBOU, MAINE, AND COMPLETED THE DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 2543 MILES (2070 km) BEFORE LANDING AT MONTENOTTE, ITALY, AFTER 66 HOURS.

Drawn by DICK MILLINGTON

RICHARD BRANSON (68) WITH HIS PILOT PER LINSTRAND (SWEDEN), THE FIRST TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC IN A HOT-AIR BALLOON, FLEW ON 2-3 JULY 1987 FROM SUGARDALE, MAINE, USA, TO LIMERICK, IRELAND, A DISTANCE OF 3018 MILES (4857 km). THEIR BALLOON VIRGIN ATLANTIC FLYER WAS THE LARGEST EVER FLOWN.

A GUN WAS FIRST USED TO START A TRACK RACE IN 1876. PREVIOUSLY RACES STARTED WITH A GUN, A SHOUT OF 'GO OR A WHITE HANDKERCHIEF'.

Drawn by DICK MILLINGTON

IN MARCH 1985, AMERICAN BRIAN HORTON OF ROCHESTER, KENT, U.K., AND KEPT ALIGHT A HOT-AIR BALLOON FOR ONE MINUTE BY BLOWING FLAME FROM HIS MOUTH.

MARITA KOCH (60) (1926-1985) WAS THE HOLDER OF THE WOMEN'S 200 METRES WORLD RECORD WITH A TIME OF 21.71 AND ALSO HOLDS THE 400 METRES TITLE WITH 52.60. SHE ACHIEVED IN CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA ON 6 OCT 1965.

Drawn by DICK MILLINGTON

Detective story

Why does the sergeant suspect the blonde girlfriend of murdering the playboy?



Search for a writer

Arnold	Conrad	James	Scott
Austen	Coward	Joyce	Sheridan
Bacon	Defoe	Keats	Sidney
Blake	Donne	Lear	Spenser
Bronte	Fielding	Marlowe	Swift
Browning	Goldsmith	Murdoch	Thomas
Buchan	Grahame	Orwell	Trollope
Bunyan	Graves	Osborne	Waugh
Burney	Greene	Owen	Wilde
Chaucer	Hardy	Pinter	Woolf
Collins	Huxley	Pope	

G C O N R A D W I L D E G K N Z
C O B U C H A N L E S N E O W A
H S L P O P E B F W I C C R A N
A B A D X T U O I D Y A O E U F
U O K Q S R E F L O B S W T G L
C R E U N M T E J T M N E N H O
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B R O W N I N G G P Y E N D I S
F C D G R A V E S E W O L R A M

BUSINESS & FINANCE

No need for Opec pricing committee meeting, says Subroto

JAKARTA, Feb 29, (Reuters): Indonesian Energy Minister Subroto said today there was no immediate need for a special meeting of Opec's watchdog pricing committee, despite falling oil prices.

But members should resist pressure to offer discounts, he told reporters.

Asked if he supported calls to convene the monitoring panel set up after the last Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting in December, Subroto said: "No, it's not necessary because we can contact each other through telephone and letters."

Prices

Algeria, a member of the ministerial committee along with Nigeria, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia, has said a meeting should be held if spot oil prices remained at current depressed levels.

Crude-oil prices fell by about a dollar a barrel last week on the spot market, and some analysts expect a further slide.

Price quotes in Tokyo today were more than three dollars below the \$18 a barrel Opec target.

Some Tokyo traders said they expected Opec to call an emergency meeting to stop the market going into a free fall.

But Subroto forecast prices would recover the second half of the year, and possibly in the second quarter of 1988.

He said rumours of Opec overproduction and discounting by some members had helped push down prices, but said Opec members should reduce output while maintaining official prices rather than discount.

"It's a sacrifice," he added.

Speaking after the signing of two exploration contracts, Subroto said oil prices had weakened because non-Opec countries have stepped up production. Stocks remained high in the industrialised countries and the northern hemisphere winter was less severe than expected.

Turkey launches first privatisation

ISTANBUL, Feb 29, (Reuters): Turkey launched its long-delayed privatisation programme today, offering 22 per cent of the profitable Teletas A.S. telecommunications company for sale.

Bank clerks in Istanbul said there was a steady flow of applicants to buy shares at the early 5,000 outlets.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal made privatisation of state companies a major target to promote competition and liberalise the economy in 1986, but brokers say elections, bureaucracy and market instability have held up the programme.

Officials from lead managers Türkiye İştirak A.Ş. said the 15.4 billion lira (\$1.3 billion) sale would be heavily oversubscribed by the time the offer closes on March 4.

US economy shrugs off worst effects of crash

Economists foresee no recession this year

WASHINGTON, Feb 29, (AP): The US economy has shrugged off the worst effects of the October stock market collapse and should be able to escape a recession this year, economists for top US corporations predicted today.

The National Association of Business Economists said optimism among its members has risen appreciably since the last survey conducted in the month following the Oct 19 plunge in stock prices.

Improvement

In November, more than half of the business economists were predicting a recession would begin before the end of 1988, an outlook that could have spelled bad news for Republican hopes of holding onto the White House in November's presidential election.

Now, the number of economists expecting a recession this year has dropped to about one-fourth.

"As we move farther away

from October, we are a little less nervous. We are seeing continued improvement in manufacturing and other good signs that the expansion will keep going," said Kathleen Cooper, chief economist for Security Pacific National Bank of Los Angeles.

The next president is likely to face a recession soon after taking office, the analysts believe, with about 60 per cent of them picking 1989 as the most likely year the downturn will begin.

But for 1988, the economists are projecting further growth at a modest pace, stable interest rates and a slight drop in inflation.

The analysts predicted that the economy, as measured by the gross national product, will expand just 2 per cent this year, down from a 3.9 per cent GNP increase in 1987, when measured from the fourth quarter of 1986.

Optimistic

President Ronald Reagan's administration holds a more optimistic view, predicting GNP growth this year of 2.4 per cent.

Ms Cooper, who compiled the

association's survey, said the decline in the stock market caused the majority of economists to reduce their growth forecasts for this year, but she said most of them had cut back their projections by less than 1 per cent.

Growth

"Economists see the largest effect of the market's plunge on consumer spending for durable goods," she said, noting that they are now expecting car sales to total only 9.8 million units this year, down from an expectation of 10.5 million sales made before the market decline. The forecast of housing starts also was trimmed to 1.52 million units this year, compared to 1.62 million new houses built in 1987.

Ms Cooper said the analysts expect growth to be most sluggish in the first half of the year, as businesses cut back on production to reduce high inventories. GNP growth will average 1.5 per cent in the first six months and then improve to 2.5 per cent growth for the rest of the year.

the economists forecast.

This sluggish growth rate will not be enough to keep the unemployment rate from rising. The economists forecast that unemployment, which now stands at 5.8 per cent, will rise to 6.1 per cent by the end of the year.

But the slow growth will help to keep inflation from getting out of control. The analysts predicted that consumer prices will rise 4.2 per cent this year, slightly slower than the 4.4 per cent increase in 1987.

In other predictions, the economists said:

- interest rates, as measured by the prime lending rate, will stay steady. Banks cut their prime rate, used to set interest rates on a variety of corporate and consumer loans, to 8.5 per cent in early February, and analysts forecast it will remain at this level through the end of the year.

- The federal budget deficit, which fell to \$150.4 billion in 1987, will rise to \$157 billion in the current fiscal year, but then resume falling, dropping to \$140 billion by 1990. This is more pessimistic than the Reagan administration, which sees this year's deficit falling to \$146.7 billion and a further decline to \$104.2 billion by 1990.

Deficit

— The country's foreign trade deficit, which hit a record \$171 billion last year, will finally start to come down, dipping to \$150 billion this year and \$130 billion in 1989.

The optimism on the trade deficit is based on a belief that the dollar has finally fallen far enough to stem Americans' appetite for imports while making US products competitive once again on overseas markets.

Ms Cooper said the economists are now less pessimistic about the fact of the dollar with less than one-fifth of them thinking the dollar will drop by 10 per cent in value this year against other major currencies. In November, more than 40 per cent were looking for a decline in the dollar that was at least that large.

Foreign investment soars

Malaysia's electronics industry booming

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 29, (Reuters): Malaysia's electronics industry, the world's third largest exporter of semiconductors after Japan and the United States, is booming, boosted by rising foreign investment, industry and government officials said.

"Malaysia's electronics industry is healthy. The semiconductor industry will continue to grow and industrial components are coming in," said Roger Bertelson, outgoing chairman of the Malaysian-American Electronics Industry, which groups all US electronics firms in the country.

Technology

Several foreign firms recently announced plans to invest in high technology electronics in this Southeast Asian nation.

Motorola Inc. of the US said it would invest in microchip-linked wafer fabrication, Avnet Inc. of the US in satellite receivers and television equipment and Sanyo Electric Co Ltd of Japan in portable stereos, radios and cassette.

The electronics industry has been projected to grow at seven to 12 per cent world-wide this year, Bertelson told Reuters.

World-wide sales of semiconductors, the key component in electronics products, are expected to grow from \$32.1 billion in 1987 to 45.2 billion by 1990, he said.

Investment in electrical and electronic products, Malaysia's chief manufacturing export, rose sharply to \$231 million in 1987 from \$161 million the year

before, according to provisional figures from the Malaysia Industrial Development Authority (Mida).

Surge

Malaysia's 16 US-based semiconductor firms plan to invest \$127 million in 1988 and 129 million in 1989, Bertelson said.

A surge in the value of the Japanese yen and Taiwan's dollar has persuaded Japanese and Taiwanese entrepreneurs to invest in Malaysia or expand existing operations, according to Mardiana Aziz, Mida's director for electric and electronic industries.

"Many Japanese firms are coming to Malaysia. We find the wages reasonable and labour and

other resources suitable," said Hijame Yosbida, managing director of Sanyo Industries.

Malaysia, a leading world commodity exporter, invited American electronics firms to a free trade zone in the island state of Penang in the early 1970s, offering large tax perks.

Move

The move was part of the former British colony's efforts to reduce economic dependency on volatile commodity prices.

Seven of the 10 largest US integrated circuit producers are now present in Malaysia. Sales of semiconductors by US firms accounted for two-thirds of Malaysia's \$3.8 billion ringgit (\$2.3 billion) worth of electronics exports in 1986, according to official figures.

US trade team for Kuwait

THE Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture is sponsoring the visit of an American food and agricultural trade delegation to Kuwait.

In cooperation with the Sheraton Hotel the delegates will be available for initial meeting with members of the Kuwaiti press on Saturday, March 5, at 3:30 pm. Later, they are scheduled to hold meetings and make displays for local businessmen.

The delegates representing numerous companies are scheduled to call on the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce in the morning and attend a reception in their honour in the evening of the following day at the ambassador's residence.

The team will be leaving Kuwait for Dubai on March 7.

Drilling activity rebounds in North Sea

DRILLING activity in the UK North Sea has recovered to levels seen in 1985 when oil prices were more than \$27/bbl, says a review of 1987 by Wood Mackenzie.

Last December, the Edinburgh, Scotland, analysts say, there were 39 wildcats and appraisal wells drilling in the UK North Sea, compared with only 13 in March, the lowest level in 13 years. Oil and Gas Journal has said.

Baker Hughes Inc.'s count of total rigs drilling off the UK stood at 61 last December, up from only 28 last March.

In a separate review of activity off Northwest Europe, the petroleum services department of James Capel & Co., London, said rig rates have risen from the typical \$16,000/day for semisubmersibles and \$13,500/day for jack ups in first half of 1987.

Rates increased to \$21,000/day for semisubmersibles and \$15,000/day for jack ups by year-end.

Wood Mackenzie's report shows 25 significant discoveries were drilled in the UK sector last

year, amounting to 860 million bbl of liquids and 2.1 tcf of gas. That is a substantial increase over 1986 figures in terms of exploration success rate and the volume of reserves discovered.

Liquids discovered virtually matched the volume produced during 1987. Gas discoveries were about 33 per cent more than UK production.

Seven offshore field development projects won approval in 1987. They represent a capital commitment of \$985 million (\$1.773 billion) and will recover 205 million bbl of oil and 1.7 tcf of gas. Planned spending is only half that committed to 1986.

Recovery

Wood Mackenzie calls 1987 a year of contrasts. Recovery in activity toward the end of the year apparently will continue into 1988. However, oil prices ended the year on an uncertain note.

Capel said a shortage of jack ups showed up at the end of last September, reflecting increased drilling in the southern basin of the UK North Sea. A similar

situation arose for semisubmersibles near year-end.

The main reason for the shortages was "an understandable reluctance to employ rigs that had been mothballed for long periods," Capel said.

The UK North Sea remained the most active sector off Northwest Europe in 1987.

A total of 89 wildcats and 46 appraisal wells was spudded, 66 per cent of the region's total. That compared with 87 wildcats and 34 appraisal wells in 1986.

Spudded off Norway were 25 wildcats and nine appraisal wells vs. 30 wildcats and 13 appraisal in 1986. Off Netherlands there were 20 wildcats and three appraisal wells spudded, compared with 22 wildcats and four appraisals in 1986.

There were six wildcats and three appraisal wells spudded off Denmark, compared with four wildcats and three appraisals in 1986. Drilling off Ireland dropped to three wildcats from six in 1986.

There was no activity off Germany and France.

Morocco, EEC clinch fishing and aid pacts

BRUSSELS, Feb 29, (Reuters): The European Economic Community and Morocco clinched key fishing and aid agreements on Thursday but Rabat said it was still looking for a response to its application to join the Community.

"You know Morocco has made an official request to join the Community and we're waiting for a gesture one way or another from that Community," Mohamed Seguel, secretary of state for relations with EEC, told a news conference.

Treaty

"I hope now this temporary problem (of the accords) has been solved, that gesture will be made," he added.

EEC officials welcomed the accords, which will give Morocco about \$735 million in aid over the next five years, as a sound base for future cooperation.

But the officials said nothing

about the membership application. The Community has already said that the EEC's founding treaty restricts membership to European states.

The new fishing agreement is vital to the livelihoods of thousands of Spanish and Portuguese fishermen, excluded from their traditional fishing grounds off Morocco since bilateral pacts with Rabat expired at the end of last year.

The agreement, made necessary by Spain and Portugal's entry to the Community in 1986, opens fishing rights off Morocco to other member states as well. EEC fisheries commissioner Antonio Cardoso E Cunha said Italy, France, West Germany and the Netherlands had all shown interest.

But the accord does not define the limits of Morocco's territorial waters, skirting the question of whether disputed seas off the Western Sahara belong to Rabat or not.

World Business Summary

Holmes A Court moves to amalgamate his firms

PERTH, Australia, Feb 29, (Reuters): Australian entrepreneur Robert Holmes A Court today unveiled a plan to merge his two major companies after clearing the decks two weeks ago with massive write-offs of stock market losses. His Bell Resources, with a fresh cash injection of 2.1 billion Australian dollars (\$1.5 billion), announced a takeover bid worth 686 million dollars (\$493 million) for its big brother, the Bell Group. Bell Resources said it would offer one of its shares plus one dollar (72 cents) cash for each Bell Group share, valuing each at 2.25 dollars (\$1.04), but a far cry from its pre-crash high last year of 11.30 dollars (\$8.12).

The bid was announced soon after Bell Resources received the 2.1 billion dollars cash injection today from Australia's largest company, Broken Hill Pty (BHP), under a deal in which Holmes A Court gave up his long-standing ambition of gaining control of BHP. Holmes A Court sold 19 per cent of BHP, or 380 million shares, back to BHP, reducing his holding to just 10 per cent. The October 19 stock market crash wiped millions of dollars from the investments held by his companies.

Bell Group and Bell Resources two weeks ago wrote off share losses of more than 900 million dollars (\$648 million).

Soon after the crash, Holmes A Court told shareholders he proposed a massive sell-off of investments, now totalling nearly five billion dollars (\$3.6 billion), and that he would then reorganise the group.

Business magazines have continued to rate the South African-born Holmes A Court among Australia's richest men since the crash. His spokesmen have denied media and market speculation his companies were in trouble and said his post-crash selling was to build a "war chest". If the bid announced today succeeds, Holmes A Court's stake in the merged group will slide to about 25 per cent from the 43 per cent he now holds in his flagship, the Bell Group, his spokesman told reporters here. The Bell Group in turn owns about the same percentage of Bell Resources.

London nickel stocks lowest since September '82

LONDON, Feb 29, (Reuters): Extreme tightness of world nickel supplies, which has sent the price soaring, was highlighted today by statistics showing nickel stocks in London Metal Exchange (LME) warehouses at their lowest since September 1982.

Stock available to the LME, the major market, were down to 1,992 tonnes at the end of last week, lowest since mid-September 1982 when they were at 1,938 tonnes. In March 1982 they were at their record low level of 1,302 tonnes. A record \$15,000 a tonne was bid last week for nickel on the London market. Most traders agreed that exceptionally high nickel demand from the stainless steel industry in 1987 has led to current low stock levels, rather than any attempt to corner the market. Demand has shown no sign of abating this year.

This led to a run-down in world stocks with latest figures from the World Bureau of Metal Statistics showing total non-socialist world producer stocks at the end of December at 74,000 tonnes compared with 100,000 tonnes at the end of 1986.

Some traders believe the situation could be relieved if a major merchant which handles the bulk of Soviet supplies to Europe is able to divert uncommitted metal to the LME to get the exchange through its period of extreme tightness. But there is little prospect of any substantial quantity of Western world metal being available in the near future, they said.

Besides the Soviet Union, major producers include Canada, Australia and Cuba.

Overseas investments likely to increase in Philippines

MANILA, Feb 29, (Xinhua): Foreign investments in the Philippines in 1988 is expected to grow some \$2 billion against the \$1 billion targeted by the government, Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion said today. "We don't want to be overly optimistic, but it seems that the rush is on and our growth is assured," he said. Japan is expected to contribute \$300 million in capital investments before the end of the year, Concepcion said.

Total investments from the United States and Europe are calculated to surpass \$600 million in the year. A survey released recently by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) estimated that at least 20 US firms in the country are expanding operations that will bring in \$581.85 million in new capital. Investments from newly industrialised countries and regions of Asia are also expected to increase. Singapore and Hong Kong are ready to invest \$50 million each in new industrial projects.

Foreign capitals go primarily to trade and industry sectors, particularly electronics, petrochemical, toys, gifts, houseware, garments and footwear, according to the DTI statistics. The omnibus investments code of 1987 shores up the investment trend with a package of incentives including tax holidays that support export-oriented industries. Last year alone, firms in the industries availed themselves of \$151 million in tax exemptions on raw material imports.

Italy's GDP growing

ROME, Feb 29, (Xinhua): Italy's gross domestic product increased by 2.8 per cent in 1987 which is higher than Western Europe's average of 2.5 per cent, according to figures recently released by the Central Institute of Statistics. The figure however fell short of the set target of three per cent. Industrial production in 1987 rose by 3.9 per cent, a record-high since 1984. Major increases were registered in machine-building, power generation, electronics, costume and car-making, the figures show. The boost in industrial production came primarily from a sturdy rise in domestic and private demands and measures taken since the second half of 1987 to spur external requirements. As a result, industrial exports and orders placed with Italian companies last November increased by 14.8 and 9.2 per cent respectively over the same month in the previous year. Italy's imports in 1987 increased by 8.5 per cent over the previous year to 161.587 trillion lire (some \$129 billion) while exports went up by 3.5 per cent to total 150.449 trillion lire (some \$120 billion). The gap between imports and exports was caused mainly by fuel imports. In international payments, Italy netted a surplus of 1.637 trillion lire (\$1.3 billion) in 1987, while the figures for the two previous years were in the red (2.965 trillion in 1986 and 8.352 trillion lire in 1985).

The fine performance of Italy's economy has boosted its national reserves to 74.313 trillion lire (\$59 billion) by the end of 1987 from the previous year's 61.411 trillion lire (\$48.8 billion) with exchangeable currencies standing at 20.248 trillion lire (\$16 billion).

US firm wins 2 new clients

CHICAGO, February 29, The Leo Burnett Company has announced the addition of two new clients to its US roster: The Novell Corporation and The Amnol Products Company. Novell assigned Burnett responsibility for its Clarion line of cosmetics, a new product line for the skin sensitive segment of the market introduced 18 months ago. The Chicago-based advertising agency competed for the assignment with four New York agencies, including the incumbent Lintas. Headquartered in Hunt Valley, Maryland, Novell is the number one manufacturer of mass-marketed cosmetics in the US with brand leaders like cover girl products and Noxzema medicated skin cream.

The Amnol Products Company of Naperville, Illinois, a manufacturer and marketer of specialty and novelty confectionery products, has asked Burnett to work on special projects. The account was previously handled by DDB Needham. A wholly-owned associated company of the Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company, Amnol markets such leading specialty bubble gum brands as Big League Chew and Tidal Wave.

Successful strategy planned

Bahrain aluminium industry in top gear

THE greater degree of integration achieved in the Bahrain aluminium industry over the last few years, together with further regionalisation of the sales process, has helped to leave the sector relatively unconcerned by the late 1987 falls in world aluminium prices and the prospects of lower world growth in 1988.

While certain parts of the island's industry — comprising primary, semi-manufactured and manufactured aluminium production and marketing — might face narrowing profits margins during 1988 after very good results during 1987, production will continue to rise, and expansion plans are not in doubt.

Benefits

Indeed, Bahrain might be expected to gain overall from price developments that could force capacity cutbacks among higher cost producers elsewhere, at the same time as forestalling any diversification away from aluminium to alternatives such as plastic, Economic & Financial Quarterly has said.

Long-term optimism is based on the undoubted comparative advantage afforded Bahrain primary aluminium production. Access to cheap and abundant energy supplies, an ever-

improving productivity record (attributable in a large degree to a successful Bahrainisation programme), the key strategic role ascribed to Bahrain's aluminium sector by the GCC as a gas-based industry facilitating diversification away from oil, and the firm backing of powerful Gulf official and private sector investors.

More immediate benefits have accrued from the opening of the Bahrain-Saudi causeway to commercial traffic, and the 1987 imposition of a 20 per cent protectionist tariff on certain extruded products.

The cornerstone of the Bahrain aluminium industry was laid in 1971 when the Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) smelter produced its first aluminium ingots.

In 1979 the Saudi Arabian government, through its Public Investment Fund (PIF), bought a 20 per cent stake in Alba from the Bahraini government and, since then the ownership of Alba has been structured as follows: the Bahrain government, 57.9 per cent; the Public Investment Fund, 20 per cent; Kaiser Aluminium Bahrain E.C., 17 per cent and Breton Investments Limited, 5.1 per cent.

At the same time, the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation

(Sabic) acquired a 25.67 per cent share in what came to be known as the Bahrain Saudi Aluminium Marketing Company (Balco), with the Bahraini government the only other shareholder.

Balco's prime responsibility is to market the 77.9 per cent of Alba's production allocated to the Bahraini and Saudi shareholders on an equity basis.

Production

Alba's production is transferred to its shareholders and their marketing agents at a price calculated to enable the primary producer to recover its net cash outgoings, including all capital payments and loan repayments.

It is Balco, therefore, which feels the effect of speculative or cyclical swings in world aluminium prices on its financial results, enabling Alba to concentrate on maintaining the quality and rate of output.

While Balco can therefore be identified as the lynchpin in creating a higher value added, more regionalised and integrated Bahrain and Gulf Aluminium industry, it has had to rely on both the growing sophistication of Alba's primary product and the creation of downstream industries as well as on its own and selling policies.

In practice, with the interlock-

ing interests of different companies and governments to the Bahrain aluminium industry, assignment of individual credit for important policy decisions is somewhat redundant.

The early distribution pattern of Balco sales was a reflection of Bahrain's freight advantage to Far East markets via a vis Western hemisphere producers, EEC tariffs, and the low levels of regional demand.

But the new concentration of sales is strategic, and has involved Balco having to ignore ready demand from non-Middle East Customers and to reduce annual tonnage availability to existing clients — at least until Alba's expansion is completed.

The competitiveness of Gulf aluminium worldwide and the policy factors therefore involved in Balco's present sales profile are emphasised by comparison with the following 1986 distribution percentages for Dubai Aluminium (Dubal): USA, 47 per cent; Far East (Japan, Korea, Taiwan), 35 per cent; UAE, 0.5 per cent; 20 other countries, 17.5 per cent.

Until 1986 Bahrain boasted three downstream aluminium companies in the semi-manufactured sector: Bahrain Aluminifères International (BAI) set up in 1972 as a joint venture between

the Bahraini Government and Breton Investments; Bahrain Aluminium Extrusion Company (Balco), a government-owned entity that came onstream in 1977; and Middle East Aluminium Cables (Midal), a private sector venture that started operations in 1978. In 1986 BAI and Midal took 3,808 tons and 11,547 tons of liquid metal from Alba, while Balco accounted for 5,914 tons of extrusion billet.

In 1986 the situation in the Bahrain downstream industry changed significantly with the start-up of the Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill Company (Gar-mco), a joint venture of six Arab states, and the increased stake in Midal purchased by the successful and expanding Saudi Cables Company.

Link

The link between primary and semi-manufactured production to the Gulf that Balco has exploited to increase its value added sales has been further strengthened by the opening of the Bahrain-Saudi causeway, which has facilitated plant-to-plant exports to other Gulf countries and Jordan.

Direct cost savings from the avoidance of port handling charges are boosted by less quantifiable benefits deriving from more

frequent delivery schedules and less inventory financing, and these are often enough to sway regional purchasers even if the actual price paid is at a slight premium to alternative imports.

These benefits and intra-GCC official purchasing preference for GCC products hold equally for the exporting efforts of the semi-manufactured producers and have already borne fruit.

Within Bahrain the government has introduced a protectionist tariff to try and reinforce the link between Balco and product manufacturers, which has been comprised by alleged 'dumping'.

Most manufacturers now claim to be sourcing inputs locally where available, and Bahraini officials are trying to encourage new uses for aluminium. The introduction of rolling mill capacity was also expected to increase the volume of Alba's primary production that eventually found itself an end use in the region, although Gar-mco has also had to prove its international quality and price credentials, partly in the very Japanese market from which Balco has withdrawn some primary product availability.

There are also plans for an aluminium foil factory adjunct to Gar-mco.

LONDON (Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	ICL	077/0
ABBIE LFE	250.0	IMI	193/0
ALD LTONS	371.0	JAGUAR	337.0
AMSTRAD	55.34	LADROKE	365.0
ARGYLL GP	190.0	LAND SECS	498/0
ASDA HFI	170/0	LAPORTE	397/0
A B FOODS	209.0	LASMO	295.0
BAA PP	100/0	LEGAL-GEN	278/0
BAT INDS	432.0	LLOYDS BK	273/0
BARCLAYS	490/0	LUCAS IND	252/0
BASS	810/0	MAGNET	235/0
BEAZER	205.0	MARKS+SP	180/0
BEECHAM	458/0	MAXWELL C	248.0
BET ORD	243.0	METAL BOX	192/0
BICC PLC	335/0	MEPC	467.0
BLUE ARW	102/0	MIDLAND BK	400/0
BLUE CIRC	438/0	NEXT	274/0
BOC GP	391.0	HTH FOODS	270/0
BOOTS CO	220.0	P & O DFD	590/0
BPB INDS	281/0	PEARL	443/0
BR COMM	293/0	PEARSON	672/0
BR AIRWAY	168/4	PILKINGTON	229.0
BR AEROSP	132/0	PLESSEY	162/0
BR GAS PP	352/0	PRUDENTIAL	833.0
B.P.	49.25	RACAL	220/0
B.P.-HEV	62.5	RANK NVIS	311/0
BR TELCOM	243/0	RANK ORG	630/0
BRITOL	497/0	RCKITT+CO	716.0
BUNZL	170.0	REDLAND	493.0
BURMAN OL	492.0	REED	403/0
BURTON	240.0	RYL BK SC	340.0
CABLEWIR	343/0	RMC GRP	451/0
CADBURYS	270/0	RTZ CORP.	343.0
CANTON VIT	250/0	ROLLS ROY	124.0
CCM UNI	277/0	ROTHMAN B	406/0
COOKSON	550/0	ROYAL INS	403/0
COURTAULD	313/0	SAATCHI	418/0
DALGETT	290/0	SAATCHIB	219/0
DEE CP	183/0	SEARS	245/0
DIXONS	184/4	SEDEWICK	208/0
ENG CHINA	405/0	SHIELL	202/0
ENTER OIL	293.0	SMITH+HIEP	136/4
FERRANTI	82/0	STD-CHART	493/0
FISONS	255/0	STC	240.0
GEN ACCID	876.0	STOREN	240.0
GEN ELEC	154/0	SUN ALLIA	893.0
GLAXO	035/0	TARNAC	240.0
GRANADA	315.0	TATE<L	181/0
GROABE	138.0	TESCO	515/0
GRAND MET	444/0	THORN ENI	365/0
GUS A	075/0	TRAF NSE	531.0
GUARD RTL	890/0	TSE	108.0
GUINNESS	293/0	T+N	108.0
HANSON	137/0	TRUSTEE	228/4
HAWKER SID	492/0	ULTRAHAW	245/0
HAWLEY	109.0	UNILEVER	505/0
HILLSDOWN	287.0	UNIGATE	270/0
		UTD BUSCP	265.0
		UTD INSPR	424.0
		WELLCOM	450.0
		WINTRO IN	282/0
		WILLIS FB	220.0
		WOOLWORTH	279/0

LONDON (Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
A.B. ELECT	370/0	370/0
AMI NEW	247/0	246/0
APV PLC	131/0	131/0
ARND	119/0	118/0
AARONSON	277/0	276/0
ADDISON G	89/0	89/0
ADVEST GP	314/0	316/0
ALEX UNIV	176/0	177/0
ALLD IR B	215/0	215/0
ALLIANCE	808/0	808/0
ALLCO COLL	128/0	127/0
ALLD PLAM	52/0	53/0
AMAR PLC	168/0	169/0
AMER TRUS	118/0	119/0
AMERSHAM	490/0	491/0
ANGLIA TV	431/0	428/0
ANSBACHER	164/0	165/0
U-APP HOL	308/0	307/0
APPEYARD	370/0	370/0
APRICOT	107/0	107/0
ARMSTRONG	143/0	143/0
ANGLO A.S.	393/0	
AQUAS A.	80/0	80/0
ASHLEY L	116/0	116/0
ATTWOODS	288/0	288/0
AUTO SEC	240/0	241/0
AVIS EUR	314/0	315/0
AVON RUBB	630/0	630/0
BAIL JAP	478/0	478/0
BANKER IT	67/0	67/0
BK OF SCD	568/0	569/0
BARKER DO	152/0	153/0
BART DEV	187/0	186/0
BELWELL	155/0	155/0
BEJAM GP	177/0	176/0
BELHAVEN	45/0	45/0
BELLWAY	225/0	225/0
BENROSE	213/0	211/0
BENLOX	45/0	45/0
BENNETT +F	36/0	36/0
BENTALLS	192/0	193/0
BERISFORD	299/0	299/0
BERKELEY	294/0	295/0
BRKLY NAT	24/4	24/4
BLCK LE 2	21/4	21/4
BOASE NAS	282/0	282/0
BODDINGTO	145/0	145/0
BOOKER PL	390/0	390/0
BORTHWICK	48/0	49/0
BOYNORPE	364/0	365/0
BRANMER	222/0	223/0
BRENT CHE	132/0	132/0
BRENT UKR	334/0	333/0
BRIDON	145/0	144/0
BRITANIC	013/0	010/0
BR ASSETS	66/4	66/0
BR-LIND CO	271/0	272/0
BR VITA	433/0	433/0

BRIXTON E	254/0	254/0
BULMER HP	159/0	160/0
BURGESS	115/0	116/0
CRI PLC	115/0	116/0
U-CPU COM	92/0	92/0
CALEDONIA	344/0	345/0
CALOR GRP	535.0	549.0
CANNON ST	270/0	271/0
CAP GROUP	204/0	206/0
CAP-RADIO	190/0	190/0
CARADON	302/0	305/0
CARLO EN	160/0	161/0
CARLESS C	103/0	102/0
CARTON C	713/0	710/0
CATER ALL	340/0	340/0
CENTL ITV	258/0	258/0
CHATER CN	298/0	298/0
CHARTERNA	31/4	31/0
CHLORIDE	55/0	55/0
CHRISTIES	515/0	515/0
CHAS. CHUR	107/0	108/0
U-CIFER	18/0	18/0
U-CLUFF	98/0	98/0
CLOYE PET	114/0	113/0
COALITE	325/0	324/0
COATES BR	350/0	350/0
CASE GP	62/0	63/0
COLLINS W	578/0	578/0
COLLINS A	455/0	458/0
CNTRL SEC	46/0	47/0
COLOROLL	227/0	226/0
COURTS FR	258/0	258/0
CI GROUP	16/0	16/0
COSTAIN G	288/0	288/0
COURTS A	184/0	185/0
COMIE (T)	121/0	123/0
CREST NIC	209/0	210/0
CRODA INT	189/0	188/0
CROWTHER	116/0	115/0
CRTSTALAT	161/0	161/0
DARES EST	34/4	34/0
CRESANT JA	142/0	142/0
DAMSON IN	211/0	211/0
DE LA RUE	399/0	398/0
DELTA GP	260/4	261/0
U-DEWEY W	107/0	105/0
DGR PLC	385/0	385/0
DIPLOMA	215/0	214/0
DRAYTON J	898/0	900/0
DRAYTON C	430/0	430/0
DUNHILL	165/0	165/0
EAGLE TST	16/0	15/6
EAG TS RF	15/4	15/2
EDIN AMER	95/0	95/0
EDIN INT	148/0	148/0
U-ELDRGE	351/0	350/0
ELECTRA I	195/0	196/0
ELECTROCH	191/0	191/0
ELEC REAT	99/0	99/0
ELLIS EVA	168/0	168/0
ENAP PLC	199/0	198/0
ELLIS GOL	60/0	61/0
EMPIRE ST	238/0	238/0
ETAN	264/0	265/0
EUTROTHN	322/0	320/0
EUTROTHN R	278/0	278/0
EURO W RG	20/4	20/0
EVERED HL	118/0	120/0
EVODE GP	158/0	159/0
U-EXPLAIR	31/0	31/0
FBI BARCK	132/4	134/0
FARNELL E	156/0	156/0
FED. HOUSN	241/0	241/0
FENNER JN	168/0	168/0
FERGUSON	287/0	288/0
U-FIELDS M	127/0	128/0
FINE ARTS	232/0	230/0
FIHLAN GP	77/0	79/0
FLEMING J	207/0	206/0
F & C PAC	121/0	123/0
FIHLAT J	92/0	93/0
FIRST LEI	528/0	525/0
FIRST-MAT	238/0	239/0
FITZ LOV	263/0	263/0
FORDOK IT	103/0	103/0
FOSECO MI	221/0	222/0
FLNG.FE.I	174/0	176/0
FLNG.AN.I	115/0	115/0
FLNG.MERC	165/0	165/0
FLNG.OSEA	154/0	154/0
F R GROUP	280/0	279/0
U-FLOYD O	31/0	31/0
FRESHBAKE	91/0	91/0
U-FORD M	85/0	85/0
GEEST PLC	243/0	243/0
GEI INTL	127/0	126/0
GERRO-DAT	308/0	303/0
GVTT ORIE	257/0	257/0
GESTETNER	184/0	183/0
GLTINMED	455/0	455/0
GVTT ATL	124/0	124/0
GVTT STRT	211/0	211/0
GREYCOAT	338/0	338/0
GRNPH-TV	49/0	48/0
GRMP-TV.H	255/0	256/0
GRA GRP	127/0	
GT PTIND	297/0	298/0
NT.UNLV.S	675/0	675/0
GRINHL.WTL	194/0	194/0
GRN.KINGH	492/0	490/0
GP PLC	84/0	85/0
HTV GROUP	264/0	263/0
HALL (M)	129/0	129/0
HAMBROS I	204/0	204/0
HRSH+CRSF	574/0	573/0
U-HUTNHN	20/0	19/4
HEATH (CE	376/0	375/0
HELENE LN	42/0	43/0
HINDSON GR	373/0	375/0
NFTVN.CRN	223.0	223.0
NEMO-STUR	124/0	125/0

KEYWOOD W	285/0	284/0
HICKSH.IH	164/0	164/0
HIGGS-HIL	332/0	330/0
H.LMD.DIS	90/0	90/0
HOGG GARD	140/0	140/0
HOLDEN PR	117/0	117/0
HOLMES GR	99/0	99/0
U-HUGHES	99/0	99/0
IBSTK.JSE	184/0	184/0
ICE.FZ.FD	310/0	313/0
IMRY INTL	365/0	358/0
INCHCAPE	676/0	680/0
INDPNDT	40/4	41/0
INDPHOT W	11/0	11/0
INT.BU.CH.	116/0	111/0
INVGDH.DS	204/0	205/0
INSTR.C.S	319/0	318/0
INT.CTY.NS	180/0	179/0
JHSH.NATH	244/0	244/0
KALON	32/4	32/4
KENDT.BRK	274/0	273/0
KETSON	73/0	73/0
KLEMT.BHS	338/0	339/0
KLEIH OS	120/0	120/0
KMKITFI T	192/0	191/0
KMKISAVE	314/0	315/0
U-KUNICK	36/0	36/0
LDN.INT.G	279/0	278/0
LAIRD GRP	230/0	231/0
LAING (J)	288/0	288/0
LAING (P)	410/0	410/0
LAING (D)	253/0	253/0
LANDLEISU	292/0	292/0
LANRICE W	139/0	139/0
LEIGH INT	194/0	194/0
LEX SERVC	320/0	320/0
LILLEY-JF	43/0	43/0
LOGICA	283/0	283/0
LDN-FORFT	156/0	155/0
LDN-MCHST	274/0	274/0
LDN-MET	155/0	155/0
LDN INV T	26/0	26/0
LASMO OPU	160/0	160/0
LDN SHOP	213/0	213/0
LDN.U.I	201/0	201/0
LOVELL HD	227/0	227/0
LOM-BOWAR	220/0	222/0
LOM-CO	575/0	575/0
LOME NOME	356/0	355/0
LDN HDS	158/0	158/0
M&G GROUP	353/0	353/0
NACARETH G	298/0	299/0
MCTHY+STN	472/0	472/0
MCKMTE.BJ	314/0	313/0
MNSFLD.PL	457/0	457/0
MALCPALINE	459/0	466/0
MARLEY	154/0	155/0
MTSTN.THO	117/0	111/0
MATTHEWS	90/0	90/0
MEMEC (MCC)	190/0	190/0
MEENZES J	356/0	356/0
MERCIT.T5	140/0	140/0
U-MRRTA.M	388/0	390/0
METALRAX	84/0	85/0
MEYER INT	374/0	373/0

Gold at 10-month low, dollar steady

LONDON, Feb 29, (Reuters): The price of gold fell sharply today, hitting its lowest in 10 months, on heavy selling from the Middle East, dealers said.

Some feared that bullion would fall further, some analysts said they saw signs of panic selling by mining companies which were worried that the value of their inventories was about to plummet.

"The market is now heading for \$400 an ounce," a trader with one of London's leading bullion firms said.

Steady

The dollar meanwhile, held steady, just below 1.69 West German marks and just above 128 yen, and share prices were mixed in the various world stock markets.

Wall Street's blue chip barometer, the Dow Jones industrial average, rose 12 points in the

first four of trading to 2,038. London shares were steady and Tokyo, the world's largest market, eased slightly.

Share prices fell today despite an afternoon rebound, snapping a 13-day winning streak that had pushed the main market index up by over 1,600 points, or nearly seven per cent.

"It had to come sometime, and it came today," said stock analyst Craig Chudler of Smith New Court Far East.

The key index lost 42.06 points, or 0.17 per cent, to close at 25,242.81. Brokers said there were no specific factors that sent the market down, but a technical correction was inevitable.

Rise

It was the index's longest rise after a 14-session bull run from December 21, 1980, to January 11, 1981, which lifted it to a total of 115.17 points, or 8.94 per cent.

brokers said.

Gold, which dropped about seven dollars an ounce from today's close in hectic early European trading, steadied by the afternoon, when its price was fixed at \$426.15 an ounce, \$4.30 below its Friday fixing.

Graham Birch, a gold analyst at London brokers Kleinwort Greaveson, said he expected the price would keep sliding until, at between \$380 and \$400 an ounce, jewellers start buying gold again.

Demand

For now, many dealers believe governments have got inflation pretty much under control. That cuts demand for gold, always popular with investors who fear rising prices will erode the value of their cash holdings.

Gold touched \$500 in late December but failed to stay at that level, despite the crash on the stock markets and worries about

the global economy that might have been expected to send investors fleeing to the safe haven of precious metals.

For now, investors prefer to put their money into things that give them a return — whether interest rates, as in bonds or bank deposits, or dividends, as the shares.

Rates

High interest rates, meanwhile, buoyed the pound sterling despite news of a much higher-than-expected British current account balance of payments deficit of £905 million for January.

The British shortfall, like the even larger US trade deficit, raises worries that people are spending more pounds, or dollars, than the rest of the world wants to own.

But in Britain, interest rates are much higher than in the

United States, and many investors feel its economic prospects are brighter.

"The market likes the look of sterling," a London dealer said.

Eased

London shares eased briefly on the trade news and then recovered, as by mid-afternoon, the benchmark FTSE 100-share index edged slightly above Friday's close of 1,766.5.

Frankfurt shares ended mixed, with the Boersen-Zeitung 30-share index up 0.82 points to close at 290.90. The Paris bourse indicator closed 0.6 per cent lower, while Milan's Mib index rose 2.07 per cent. In Zurich, the All-Share Swiss index slipped 1.9 points to 828.7.

Sydney's Main index rose 10.1 points to 1,251 while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index climbed 34.16 points to 2,418.08

Petrochemicals vital for diversification of economy

I *GOS, Feb 29, (Opecna): The petrochemical operations of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) represented a milestone in the company's efforts to diversify the country's economy.

In a speech delivered in Kaduna, Nigerian Petroleum Resources Minister Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman said: "What you see today in the section on petrochemicals represents the fruition of over one decade of efforts to establish a petrochemical industry for Nigeria."

Coordinator

The address, read on the minister's behalf by Alhaji Sani Bello, sector coordinator of NNPC refineries, marked NNPC day at the 10th Kaduna international trade fair.

Lukman pointed out in the speech that the corporation had been working hard to produce raw materials for a variety of domestic industries.

Meanwhile, visitors to the NNPC pavilion at the fair were shown a complete range of the equipment used in the production of the country's oil and petroleum products.

Cocoa nations meet on crisis in world market

LONDON, Feb 29, (Reuters): Cocoa producing and consumer nations began two weeks' talks today to try to agree on new price support measures in a surplus-burdened world market.

Initial discussions of the International Cocoa Organisation (Icoco) executive committee focused on procedural matters, delegates said.

Later, sessions of the Icoco council will consider crisis measures needed because the manager of the Icoco's huffer stock has bought his full allocation of 250,000 tonnes — yet prices remain under pressure.

Scheme

The Icoco could implement a withholding scheme which would remove up to 120,000 tonnes from the market.

But consumers are keen to see a cut in the agreed price range, now 1.485 to 2.155 Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) \$2.020 to \$2.930 a tonne, which they and the producers would agree to defend and at which the buffer stock has been buying.

Consumers are also anxious to discover whether the buffer stock has enough money to maintain its 250,000-tonne stockpile and pay for the withholding scheme.

The largest producer, Ivory Coast, and Brazil, the second largest, together own the buffer stock around \$36 million in Icoco levy payments on cocoa exports.

Pertamina to sign 2 production-sharing deals

JAKARTA, Feb 29, (Opecna): Pertamina, the Indonesian state oil company, is to sign two new production-sharing contracts today with the US company, Teroso Petroleum, and the Canadian firm, Canada Northwest Land.

The two companies will then be entitled to launch hydrocarbon development programmes in East Java and Lampung, South Sumatra, respectively.

Deals

The new deals will bring the total production-sharing agreements signed by Pertamina with foreign oil companies to 69. Mines and Energy Minister Dr Subroto said at the weekend that the two contracts were the first of 10 to be signed this year.

He said two more contracts would be concluded in April, to be followed by another two shortly.

According to Subroto, 21 areas developed under production-sharing deals, were currently producing, while others were in exploratory stages.

Lloyd's marks its 300th anniversary

LONDON, Feb 29, (Reuters): Lloyd's of London, now marking its 300th anniversary, has come a long way since the days when Edward Lloyd's coffee house first provided a congenial meeting place for merchants to exchange shipping news.

For one thing, the Lloyd's building is a towering futuristic structure of glass and steel, a sharp contrast to the smoky, intimate atmosphere of its birthplace.

For another, it has evolved from its informal origins to become the world's largest insurance market. In the last three years alone, underwriting capacity was doubled to exceed £11,000 million in 1988.

There is no exact record of when Edward Lloyd established his Tower Street Coffee House, which was situated a few hundred metres (yards) from the present building. But the earliest known reference to it is an advertisement in the London Gazette of February 18-21, 1688.

Lloyd himself took no part in the underwriting, but his coffee house gained a reputation for providing reliable shipping news and cosy surroundings for the exchange of gossip.

Today's 14-storey building is a high-tech mass of exposed stainless steel pipes, tubes and glass. "Progress is vital for Lloyd's survival," Lloyd's historian Terry Atkins said. "It wouldn't exist now if it hadn't dampened all attempts to establish tradition."

But while Lloyd's looks to the future, some relics of the old days remain: the Lutine Bell, salvaged from a frigate that sank in 1799, is sometimes still rung when the market receives important news, two strokes for good, one for bad.

Lost ships are still recorded with a quill pen in the huge loss book, which dates from Lloyd's move to rooms in the royal exchange in 1774.

Risk

One of the most startling features of the new building is an elegant 18th century committee room on the 11th floor.

It was taken piece by piece from Bowdoin House in Wiltshire, Southern England, for the



A towering futuristic structure of glass and steel, the Lloyd's building stands illuminated in the night sky over London as Lloyd's marks its 300th anniversary. From early days as a coffee house providing a congenial meeting place for merchants to exchange shipping news, Lloyd's has evolved to become the world's largest insurance market. (Reuters wirephoto)

1928 Lloyd's building and then rebuilt in the present one.

Today, Lloyd's has a reputation for considering virtually any risk. Fleets of ships and aircraft, civil engineering projects, factories, oil rigs and refineries are insured there.

It has insured space satellites, polar expeditions and film stars.

A whisky company once offered a £1 million prize to anyone who could capture the Loch Ness monster alive — and insured against anyone actually doing so.

A distiller of the spirit insured his nose — subtle changes in the whisky can be detected by smell — with Lloyd's underwriters.

Forty members of the "whiskers club" in Derbyshire, North-east England, insured their beards for £20 against fire and theft.

But these bizarre deals make up only a tiny proportion of Lloyd's income of £33 million every working day.

Lloyd's is a society of underwriters whose members, all

private individuals, accept insurance business for their own personal profit or loss.

Atkins said he thought the shipping company P and O was probably the oldest Lloyd's policyholder.

"You can't really trace where it all started. Underwriting has always been a purely individual agreement between insurer and client," Atkins said.

"It's all very short term, the underwriters' syndicates has a technical life of one year and there are very few records."

Lloyd's confidently predicts it will continue to expand. Having outgrown three buildings within 50 years, one of the few briefs it gave the architect for the present building was that it should allow for further growth well into the 21st century.

Design

The building was designed by Richard Rogers, co-architect of the Pompidou Centre in Paris. His design places air conditioning ducts, lift machinery and plumbing on the outside, providing the insurance underwriters with a startling exterior and a vast, highly flexible interior unimpeded by service equipment.

To complement these modern surroundings, computer screens are beginning to take the place of the old ledgers on the underwriting desks, known as boxes.

Lloyd's says most underwriting boxes are expected to be connected within three years to the London insurance market network, an electronic data exchange system set up in June 1987.

Atkins expects limited on-screen trading to come in during the next five years. "There won't be a big bang, because Lloyd's doesn't work like that. More like a series of little bangs," he said, referring to radical 1986 London Stock Market reforms, which introduced computer trading and were dubbed "Big Bang" by brokers.

To celebrate the anniversary, the Lloyd's headquarters in the City of London has been floodlit since mid-February.

Nearly 200 red, white, and blue lights and a bank of white searchlights illuminate it from dusk to midnight.

Indian budget calls for higher defence spending

NEW DELHI, Feb 29, (Agencies): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government today unveiled its 1988-89 budget calling for large increases in defence spending and in outlays for farmers hard-hit by the nationwide drought.

Despite some tax increases, mainly in customs and excise duties, the federal deficit is projected to rise to Rs 74.8 billion (\$5.75 billion) from Rs 60.8 billion (\$4.7 billion) in the current year.

The increase in the deficit was expected to draw widespread criticism, as Gandhi had pledged last year to hold the 1987-88 deficit and subsequent red-ink tallies to less than Rs 60 billion (\$4.4 billion).

The government's fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31. Shortly after the budget was announced, Gandhi told reporters that "we have to increase productivity and control government spending." Yet he justified higher federal subsidies for food and fertiliser, saying that such payments were "standard practice" around the world.

Criticised

Opposition party leaders criticised the proposed budget as inflationary.

L. K. Advani, president of the opposition Indian Peoples Party, charged that the government used drought problems as "a smokescreen to cover up financial mismanagement." Madhu Dandavate of the opposition Janata Party, who leads the

opposition in parliament, said it put "a seal of approval" on a debt trap for the country.

The budget was introduced at a joint session of parliament by Finance Minister Narayan D. Tiwari. He said the spending proposals reflected "people-oriented initiatives" and efforts to cope with "the formidable after-effects of the drought."

Welcome

"It is a populist budget...inasmuch as it has helped farmers, we welcome it," said opposition Telegu Desam leader P. Uppendra. But Uppendra criticised the budget for not redressing a major grievance of the tens of thousands of farmers who protested in North India earlier this month — their demand for higher government-controlled crop prices.

The annual monsoon rains on which Indian agriculture is dependent, failed last year, reducing food production and driving many farmers from their land. Two-thirds of India's 800 million population works in agriculture.

The budget plan calls for increasing federal spending for agriculture and irrigation by 40 per cent in the upcoming fiscal year, Tiwari said.

Defence spending is projected to rise to Rs 130 billion (\$10 billion) from Rs 120 billion (\$9.2 billion) in the current year.

"Our armed forces, in the face of unwarranted provocations, have done a tremendous job of protecting our borders," Tiwari

said to applause from parliament. "We shall continue to provide them the requisite support in their efforts."

He apparently was referring to periodic clashes between Indian and Pakistani troops along the disputed northern border. He also is spending millions of rupees daily to maintain a peacekeeping force in neighbouring Sri Lanka to try to end the island's Tamil separatist rebellion.

The budget proposal calls for total spending of Rs 735.6 billion (\$56.6 billion) in the 1988-89 fiscal year, up 11 per cent from Rs 661.6 billion (\$50.9 billion) in the current year.

Tax and customs receipts are projected at Rs 660.8 billion (\$50.8 billion) in 1988-89, up 10 per cent from Rs 600.8 billion (\$46.2 billion) this year.

Revenue-raising measures include continuation of special "surcharges" on higher-income families and property owners and new customs and excise levies totalling Rs 4.23 billion (\$325 million).

It was harsher on consumer products, raising duties on cars above 1,000 cc raised from 24 to 30 per cent and the cost of colour television sets by Rs 250 (\$19) to Rs 2,000 (\$154).

The budget, however, softened its impact by extending toys, dolls, musical instruments and even pencil sharpeners a duty in one of the later moments of its presentation in parliament.

Industrial Bank gives over KD 296m as financial facilities on easy terms

By Abdul Karim Kazem

INVESTMENTS of about KD 575.6 million have accumulated in the national non-oil conversion industries from early 1974 until the end of last year, according to the acting chairman of the Kuwait Industrial Bank (KIB) Abdul Salam Al Awadi.

He said the KIB provided over KD 296 million of this amount as financial facilities on easy terms.

Decision

He told Al Sayassah and Arab Times newspapers that the percentage of the total fixed capital of these industries compared to the gross national product was 22.5 per cent. He added that this percentage was very good and reflected the great attention the government has been paying to the industrial sector.

Al Awadi said it was too early to evaluate effect of the decision taken in 1985 by the Commerce and Industry Ministry to protect



Abdul Salam Al Awadi

national industries.

He said the bank had maintained its good profit rate over the past few years and attributed this to the quick adaption by the bank to changes in the market.

He denied that the bank aimed at restricting the freedom of project owners when it followed up those projects financed by the bank, explaining that the bank only wanted to ensure that the money was used correctly.

Drop

He attributed the drop in the loans provided to the industrial sector in recent years to the unfavourable conditions for expanding industrial projects because of international conditions.

Asked why the local private sector was not directing much of its investments to the industrial sector, he said this was partly due to the long period that industries required before yielding profits whereas investment in the commercial sector gave quicker returns. Moreover, the recession that hit oil prices from the beginning of the 1980s had increased uncertainty among industrial investors.

Buyer resistance likely key to fall in Opec flow

PRODUCTION by the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries appears to be falling.

Preliminary industry estimates for the first half of January indicate production is down to 16.6 million bpd from the December average of 18.13 million bpd. At the January level, Opec supply is in balance with demand, according to Oil and Gas Journal.

Signs of Opec production cuts have not yet been reflected in firmer market prices. Industry sources say price movements will be linked to implementation of market related discounts offered by buyers earlier this month.

From the Middle East, where the discounting began, there is no evidence of market related prices being offered to other buyers.

Prices

Saudi Arabia is reported to be resisting attempts by Japanese buyers to win the same market related terms as the four US partners in Arabian American Oil Co.

Falling production and a check on the spread of price discounting had only a marginal effect on prices. Industry sources say signals from exporters are confusing.

North Sea Brent blend for February delivery recovered to \$17/bbl from \$16/bbl but slipped back to \$16.80/bbl last week.

The decline in Opec production may be driven by buyer resistance to official prices rather than a collective attempt by members to return to national quotas reaffirmed at last month's

ministerial meeting.

The standoff by buyers, if prolonged, could put considerable pressure on Opec members to extend market related prices.

If there is no further extension of discounting and refiners requiring crude are forced to purchase at official prices, Opec will be in a stronger position to face the difficult second quarter when crude demand is expected to fall.

Production

Industry sources say there has been an across the board cut in Opec production.

Iraq has seen a small drop in liftings and, significantly, Saudi Arabian production has fallen to less than 4 million bpd from the quota level of 4.343 million bpd.

Estimates of Saudi Arabia's January production range from 3.5 million bpd to 3.9 million bpd.

The Saudis may have extended the market related prices offered to the Aramco partners to about 70,000 bpd of liftings by two other US importers, Ashland Oil Inc. and Marathon Oil Co. But Japanese attempts to win price parity with American lifters have not been successful, and the fall in January production in Saudi Arabia is attributed to a decline in exports to Japan.

Japanese liftings from Iran seem to have settled into a new pattern following an agreement earlier this month on market related prices. These discounts appear to be designed to ensure that Japanese companies meet in full the 242,000 bpd quota for Iranian crude purchases laid down by guidelines from the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Japanese purchases from Iran averaged about 300,000 bpd last year. The restriction on Iranian liftings resulted from US pressure on Japan to take economic action against Iran.

Japanese customers have been told that discounts fixed to boost January liftings also will be available for February and March.

With production falling and other Opec members trying to limit the spread of market prices, industry sources now think there may be a chance of Kuwait and the UAE holding out against buyer resistance.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Feb 29, (Reuters): Prices closed higher, with buyers targeting banks and prime industrial stocks, but turnover was low. The All Ordinaries index rose 10.1 to 1,251.0.

TOKYO: Shares closed lower in active trade, ending a 13-day bull run, due to profit-taking. The Nikkei Average fell 42.06 to 25,242.81.

HONG KONG: Prices closed firmer in active trading but by a new round of buying interest, mainly from overseas institutions. The Hang Seng index rose 34.16 to 2,418.08.

SINGAPORE: The market closed mixed on lack of follow-through buying support, some profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial index rose 0.6 of a point to 888.84.

BOMBAY: Prices were marginally higher in thin and lacklustre trading hours before the presentation of the budget.

FRANKFURT: Prices closed a quiet bourse mixed but with a firmer bias, helped by favourable sentiment and technical support. The Commerzbank index, calculated at mid-session, rose 68 to 1,398.3.

ZURICH: Prices slipped marginally to close mixed, with the appointing annual results from major banks and a slightly lower dollar holding the market down. The All-Share Swiss index was down 1.9 to 828.7.

PARIS: Shares opened the main floor session mixed with a lower bias in featureless trading. LONDON: Prices fell in reaction to disappointing balance of payments data for January. Soon after release of the data the FTSE index was down 7.5 to 1,759.

Trade team

A COMMERCIAL delegation from the Netherlands arrived here on March 1 on a 10-day visit.

The visit has been coordinated between Holland's Ministry of Economy and Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. An embassy statement here said the delegation will include representatives of food and chemical industries as well as other products.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 29.2.88

B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
9	Tug Abu Samir	GulfStar	4845501
	Barge Jubail	GulfStar	4845501
16	Acacia Tree	Alqutub	4747815

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT

ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
29/2	Lanka Seedevi	Al Qutub	4747815
29/2	Safer	Algh Barber	4843988
1/3	Rashidah	Al Qutub	4747815
1/3	Kara Koram	Transcont.	2436920

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT

B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Nadethorn	Alqutub	4747815
9	Sunset	Roger	2423642

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT

ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
29/2	Barbara Morgan	Al Bader	2433537
29/2	Fathulhair	UASC	4843150
29/2	Tokyo Bridge	United	2463150
2/3	Andrea Merzario	Al Kamal	2425437
2/3	Sunderhans	Algh Barber	2421439
4/3	Ville Du Havre	Rashed	2422026
11/3	Willine Orient	Algh Barber	4843988
12/3	Maeterlinck	Rashed	2422026
20/3	New Oasis	A Marafe	4848665
20/3	Q. Ibn Al Fuja'a	UASC	4843150
28/3	Al Hissa		

COMPILED BY Alghanim Barber Shipping Co. WLL, PO Box 21708 Safat, Alghanim Industries Bldg, Airport Road, Shuwaikh. Phone 4842988/4843988, extn. 3628/3614.

Handwritten signature or note in Arabic script.



IN FOCUS
The world today

FIREMEN examine smouldering airport shuttle buses which were destroyed by fire yesterday. Police said they suspect radicals who oppose a current expansion of Tokyo's Narita International Airport. No one was injured, police said. (Reuter wirephoto)



REV. JESSE JACKSON appears to be straightening Gary Hart's tie shortly before the start of a debate on Friday in Houston. (Reuter wirephoto)



POLICE carry part of the 70 kilos of pure cocaine seized yesterday by Madrid airport authorities. Police estimate the value of the haul to be \$12 million, the largest haul at a Spanish airport. (Reuter wirephoto)



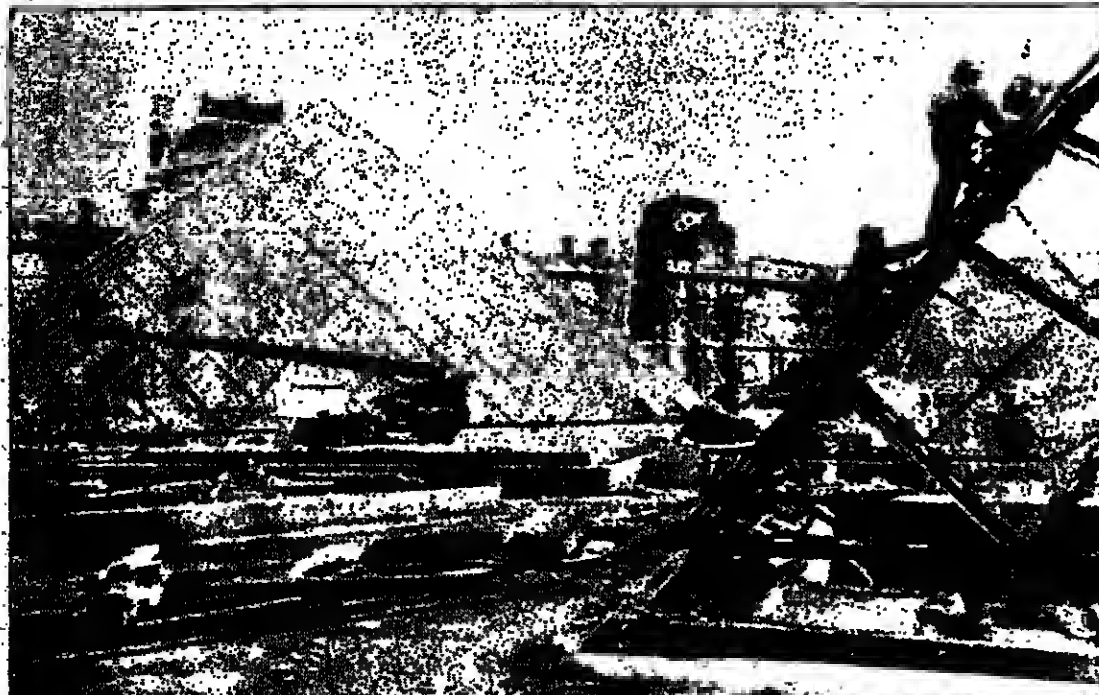
THE Duchess of York is admired by a child who presented her with flowers following a service at St. Luke's Church in Long Beach, California. (Reuter wirephoto)



WORKMEN are reflected in a mirror while moving equipment at Nato headquarters in Brussels yesterday. Preparations are in full swing for the meeting between the leaders of the 16-member alliance on March 2 and 3. (Reuter wirephoto)



A PANAMA CANAL security officer talks on his radio on Sunday as a ship travelling to the Pacific enters a lock at the Miraflores Locks near Panama City. Panama Canal operations have remained normal during the last few days of political tension, but workers on the canal said a work slowdown is possible to protest against military strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega. (Reuter wirephoto)



WORKERS lay glass panels on one of the small pyramids, next to the big one in the background in the Louvre museum courtyard yesterday. The pyramids project is about to be finished, and will be officially inaugurated by President Francois Mitterrand this week. (Reuter wirephoto)



CUBAN leader Fidel Castro (left) heads the honour guard for the casket containing the body of Flavio Bravo, the president of the Cuban Parliament, on Sunday in Havana. In the back are Rosa Elena Simón, president of the Academy of Sciences and Armando Hart, culture minister. (Reuter wirephoto)



A MUNICH car dealer frees his best offer from the snow early yesterday when heavy snowfall brought the winter to Bavaria's capital. (Reuter wirephoto)



NEW DELHI policemen guard jute bags which contain copies of the budget being unloaded at the parliament house. The copies were given to the Members of Parliament yesterday in New Delhi. (Reuter wirephoto)



A MONK at the Ganden Monastery near Lhasa, Tibet, prays to a photograph of the Dalai Lama on a temple altar on Saturday. Chinese efforts to blacken the image of the exiled Tibetan leader have failed to turn away worshippers. (Reuter wirephoto)



NUNS and thousands of faithful wait on a hill in Italy to see the Madonna on Sunday after a 'visionary' claimed the Madonna would make a supernatural sign appear in the sky. The so-called 'Miracle of Motevilvano' did not occur and an hour after the deadline for the supernatural event people left for home. (Reuter wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION For Rent

MISHRIF, deluxe, CAC, carpeted single storey villa comprising 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living and dining area, large fitted kitchen outside building, beautiful garden, covered car park and telephone. Rent KD650. Tel. 5391720/5382783, 1-8 pm. (AT2-41169-6)

Available

SHARQ, behind Sharq towers. One room to share with a bachelor, has built-in wardrobe and separate toilet facilities in a CAC apartment. Tel. Stanley, 2445789, 5.30-9 pm. (AT2-41169-6)

SALMIYA, close to Hawalli Passport Office, one room with water, electricity and kitchen facilities, for a couple or two ladies to share with a family. KD. 65. Tel. 2412923, 9-10 am. (AT3-41185-2)

SALMIYA, behind the Salmiya fire station. One big independent room with electricity for a family to share with an Indian family. KD 60 only. Tel. Vipan Oberai, 4740801. (AT3-41183-3)

MISHRIF, on the main road, Area 6. One floor of a villa, separate entrance, 3 bedrooms 3 bathrooms and big dining room and fully fitted kitchen. Rent KD500. Tel. 5390562, 2-8 pm. (AT3-41181-3)

SALMIYA, furnished room for a single working girl or Indian/Pakistani bachelors. Tel. 5634802. (AT3-41178-3)

BENEID AL QAR, near Hilton Hotel, one furnished room for a single Pakistani bachelor, Muslim, non-smoker. Rent KD30, with water. Tel. 2518373, 8 am-12.45 pm only. (AT4-41206-3)

FOR SALE

HOUSEHOLD equipment, fridge, washing machine, gas-stove, showcase, sideboards, cupboards TV and Sony stereo, Galant '86, owner leaving Kuwait. Tel. 5757113. (AT2-41165-3)

RCC constructed villa (1600 sq. ft.) with all modern amenities/20 cents land available at Udupi (India). Tel. Martis, 4810804 (Kuwait) or Tel. D'Cunha, 22846 (Udupi) (AT4-41199-3)

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Sheraton 2412596/2416691

MARKET PLACE

VARIOUS furniture items for immediate sale at throwaway prices. Tel. Khokhar, 2419815. (AT2-41170-3)

Cars

DODGE Arisk 1981 model, low mileage, V-4 2 door, automatic, AC, in good condition, KD500 cash. Tel. Mr. Ayman, 4736516, 4747548, 8 am-4 pm. 2444633, 5-9 pm. (AT4-41194-3)

Audi 200 Turbo, 1984, full options, sunroof, 43,000 km, black, in very good condition KD2450. Tel. Shakhour, 5716473, 1-3 pm after 6 pm. (AT2-41164-3)

SAAB 900 GLE 84 model, four doors, 61,000 km, AC, dark green, in very good condition. Tel. Mousa, 2429612, 2422068. From 7.30-9 am, 3-4 pm. (AT3-41188-2)

TRANS AM 83 in good condition KD1450. Tel. 3943925 after 2 pm. (AT3-41182-3)

FIAT Croma, 1987 model, metallic turquoise, 5 speed gears, full options, full insurance till July 88. Super condition. Tel. 3982742, after 4 pm. (AT2-41132-3)

MITSUBISHI Colt, 84 model, white, in excellent condition. Owner leaving Kuwait for good. Tel. 4884196 from 2 pm. (AT3-41188-2)

MISCELLANEOUS

CONTAINER loading personal effects to Houston on 10-3-88. have 8 cbm space available. Interested persons please Tel. Madhavan, 2417758 or 2445787. (AT2-41167-3)

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RIGHT hand drive car, any make and model considered from Rolls Royce to Mini. Tel. Bush, 4814477. (AT2-41166-3)

VACANCY PURCHASER

1. Good command of English
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3. Valid Kuwaiti driving license
4. Transferable Residence.
Please call 4837271 or 4837281 to submit bio data.

Required A Car Electrician

with transferable residence.
Tel: 2647370, Hawalli,
Koneus Al Jazira Cars
Repair.

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Villas, part of villas and new apartments in Salwa and various areas. Consists of 4 spacious bedrooms, 1 main room with cupboards, 3 bathrooms, furnished kitchen and a big hall. Reasonable rent. Tel. 2418968, 2418963, 2435571. (AT2-41172-3)

Required A full-time driver

Should have valid private driving licence and a transferable residence.
Call tel. 2852943 between 4.00 and 9.00 pm today.

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Villas, half villas, buildings, and flats with or without swimming pool.
Al Azraq
Real Estate
Tel. 2452199, 2452198

FOR RENT

A main ground floor
Consisting of 3 bedrooms, a hall, dining room, big kitchen, 4 bathrooms, Central A/C with an annex.
Fahila - Block 3 - St. No. 34, Plot 36 - House No. 7
Tel: 5313656 from 4.00-10.00 pm.

Transport

REQUIRED from Murgab to Shuwaikh, behind fruit & veg. market, 8 am and 5 pm. Tel. 4816679/4816749, 8 am-1 pm only. (AT4-41191-3)

SITUATIONS

Vacant

MAID required, any nationality for a small family in Maidan Hawalli. Tel. Asmerom Abrah, 5634467, 9 am-8 pm.

MAID required, preferably Filipino, for a small family of 3 people. Tel. 5710923. (AT2-41167-3)

DRIVER required, preferably Indian or Sri Lankan, for contracting managers with private car, to work full-time. Must have transferable visa and valid licence. Tel. 2425016, 2618707, 2-8 pm. (AT4-41205-3)

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2420352 (Askam)

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To view: 2438885 (Ray)

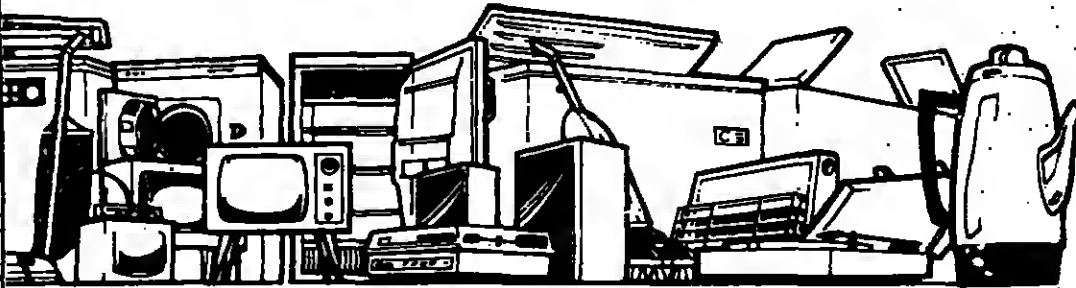
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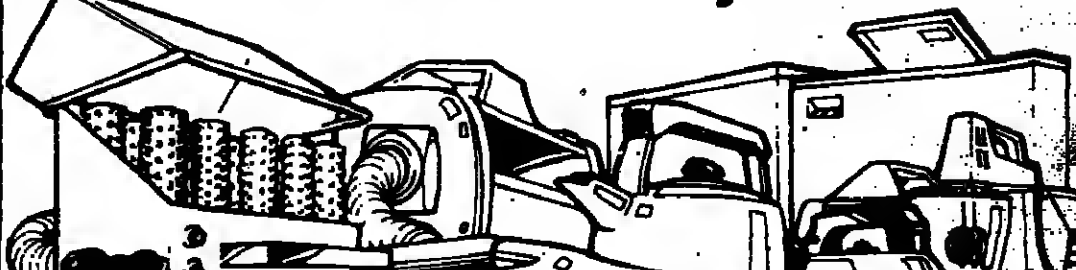
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SPORTS

SOVIET UNION DOMINATE THE BIGGEST WINTER OLYMPICS

Calgary Games close with a sparkling display

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 29. (AP) Goodbye Calgary, Alberta. Hello Albertville, France.

The biggest, most expensive and windiest Winter Olympics ended last night with fireworks, a sparkling high-tech display of lights and a follies-style ice show on the world's largest temporary rink.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, declared an official end to the XV Olympics and invited the youth of the world to gather four years hence in the French town of Albertville for the 1992 games.

Flag
As tradition dictated, Mayor Ralph Klein of Calgary passed the flag of the 1988 Winter Games to Mayor A. Dujo of Albertville, host of the 1992 Winter Olympics.

In the end, the fans, packing McMahon stadium for the closing ceremony did not shout for Alberto Tomba, Katarina Witt or any of the other superstars of the XV Winter Games.

The chant was: "Eddie, Eddie."

In response, Eddie "the Eagle" Edwards, Britain's hapless and myopic ski jumper, sprang up in the stands and waved to the legion of fans he had won instead of medals.

While Edwards and Britain came away without Olympic honours, the Soviet Union and East Germany dominated the games, and the two east bloc sport giants together came away with 54 of the 138 medals awarded in 10 events.

Before the Olympic flame was extinguished, though, Dutch speed skater Yvonne Van Gennip and the Finnish ice hockey



Hippolyt Kempf of Switzerland races on his way to gold. (Reuter wirephoto)

team provided for some fireworks of their own during yesterday's final competitive events of the games.

Van Gennip became the Games' second triple gold medal winner by capturing the women's 5,000-metre speed skating marathon in world record time.

Finland secured the silver medal in ice hockey by whipping the nearly invincible Soviet gold medalists, 2-1 — a feat that Finnish coach Pentti Matikainen said "creates hockey history."

It was Finland's first hockey medal and only the Soviets' fifth loss, against 53 victories and two ties, since they began playing Olympic hockey in 1956. The

Soviet defending champions had gone into the game with a 7-0 record and with the gold medal already clinched.

Satisfied
Had Finland lost yesterday, the silver would have gone to Sweden. But, as it turned out, the Swedes had to be satisfied with the bronze following a 3-2, come-from-behind victory over West Germany.

For a change, Switzerland won gold medals in events other than Alpine skiing. Swiss veteran Ekkehard Fasser won the four-man bobsled and Hippolyt Kempf became the first Swiss to win the Olympic Nordic combined event.

Switzerland, with 15 overall, finished third behind the Soviet Union and East Germany in the Calgary medal derby.

The Soviets set a new high in total Winter Games medals with 29 — two more than they had collected at Innsbruck in 1976. They had 11 gold, nine silver and nine bronze at Calgary. The second-place East Germans grabbed 25 — nine gold, 10 silver and six bronze.

Summing up

Calgary, which began a century ago as a frontier outpost of the Canadian mounted police, "has forever been changed because now we are a city of the world," said Mayor Klein in summing up the impact of the Games. The Games provided an \$800 million boost to help the city's recovery from the bust that followed the 1970s oil boom.

Nearly 3,000 coaches and athletes and 4,500 members of the media made Calgary for two weeks the greatest winter show in the world.

Now it's all over and a psychiatrist is warning of possible post-Games blues in this city of 640,000.

"Initially, there'll be relief that it's over. But then people will realise they're not going to be special any more. Many will suffer psychic distress," said Dr. Patricia Pitsel, a Calgary therapist who specialises in sports psychology.

A snagged Canadian flag that refused to rise during the playing of "O Canada" at last night's closing ceremony seemed to symbolise Canadians' dependency over their failure to win any gold medals in the Games they staged. Then there was the weather. The Games were plagued by

warm chinook winds that forced postponements of a dozen events, including the Nordic combined, which had to have both its jumping and cross-country portions jammed into the final day.

Frank King, chairman of the Calgary Organising Committee, alluded to the weather at the closing ceremony. The world's nations, he said, had been invited to come together in Calgary to "share our warm Western way of life."

"In fact," he quipped of the springlike weather, "it turned out to be warmer than we expected."

King went on to salute athletes who had set world records or achieved their personal bests at the just-ended Games.

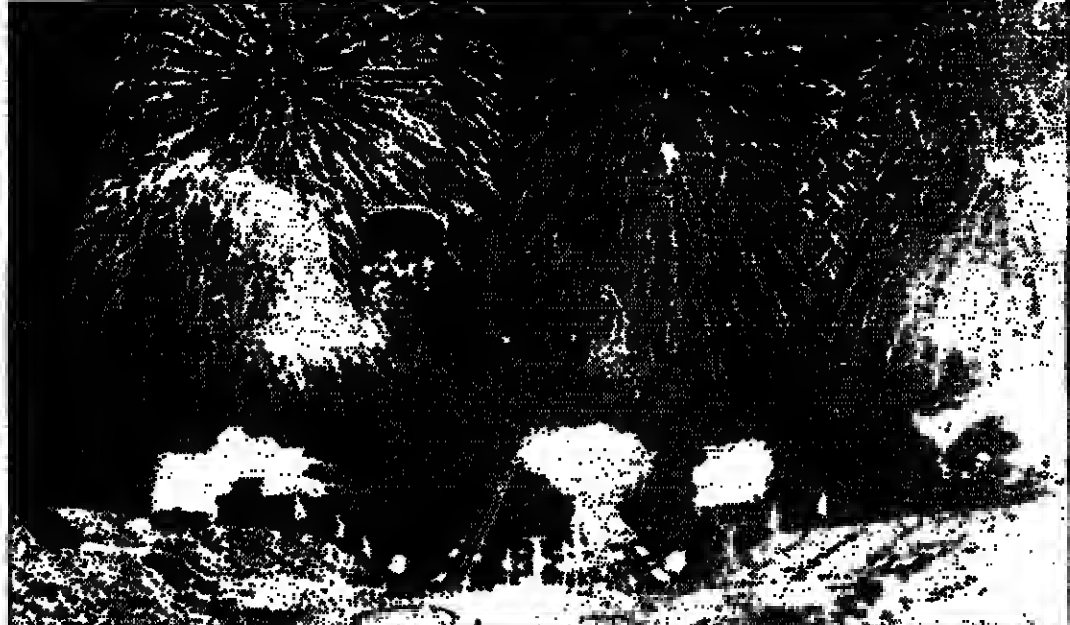
"And some of you," he added with a smile, "have even soared like an eagle."

That prompted the accolade for Eddie "the Eagle," whose style of ski jumping has been more aptly described as "ski dropping." The 24-year-old plasterer from Cheltenham, England, became an instant celebrity at the Games even though he finished last in the two events he entered.

Among the other Olympians who made their marks through performance here were:

Medals
— Matti Nykanen, the flying Finn, who won three gold medals in ski jumping, two more than any jumper had ever won at one game.

— Raisa Smetanina, who won two cross-country medals for the Soviets, giving her nine spanning four games and tying her with Sixten Jernberg of Sweden for most medals ever by a Winter Olympic athlete.



Fireworks burst over the crowds in McMahon stadium during the closing ceremonies of the Winter Games. (Reuter wirephoto)

— Vreni Schneider of Switzerland, who became the fifth woman to win two Alpine gold medals and the first since Hanni Wenzel of Lichtenstein in 1980.

— Karin Kania of East Germany, whose three medals here gave her a record eight speed skating medals spanning three Olympics.

Medal standings

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 29. (AP) Final medal tally of the Winter Olympics:

	G	S	B	T
Soviet Union	11	9	9	29
East Germany	9	10	6	25
Switzerland	5	5	5	15
Austria	3	5	2	10
West Germany	2	4	2	8
Finland	4	1	2	7
Netherlands	3	2	7	12
Sweden	4	0	2	6
United States	2	1	3	6
Italy	2	1	2	5
Norway	0	3	2	5
Canada	0	2	3	5
Yugoslavia	0	2	1	3
Czechoslovakia	0	1	2	3
France	1	0	1	2
Japan	0	0	1	1
Lichtenstein	0	0	1	1



Switzerland's four-man bobsled team gets off in a running start. (Reuter wirephoto)

Van Gennip wins third gold

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 29. (AP) Yvonne Van Gennip of the Netherlands won the women's 5,000-metre speed skating race in world-record time yesterday and captured her third gold medal of the Winter Olympics.

Van Gennip skated the Olympic oval course in 7:14.13 to beat Andrea Ehrig of East Germany by nearly three seconds. Ehrig had to settle for the silver medal, and teammate Gabi Zange got the bronze.

Most
Van Gennip, 23, earlier won the 3,000 and 1,500 metres. Her three gold medals are the most by a female speed skater since Lydia Skoblikova of the Soviet Union won four golds at the 1964 games in Innsbruck, Austria.

"I was gold after I saw Ehrig's time. I thought I could beat it," Van Gennip said.

"Even if I hadn't won, I would have considered the Olympics a success with two gold medals. Now I can celebrate."

Ehrig went out and took 3.2 seconds off Van Gennip's 1987 world record of 7 minutes, 20.36 seconds by skating a 7:17.12 in the first pair.

Lead
But Van Gennip, skating in the fifth pair, took the lead away from Ehrig after 51-2 laps of the 12-1/2 lap race and maintained it. Ehrig embraced Van Gennip after the race.

Zange clocked a time of 7:21.61.

Making Van Gennip's feat all the more amazing is that she underwent surgery on her foot in December. She developed a foot ailment because she had been lacing her skates too tightly.

Even after her victory in Saturday night's 1,500, she was a fresh skater yesterday. It was the first time in the Olympics that women



Dutch speed skater Yvonne Van Gennip races around the oval as she skates to a third gold. (Reuter wirephoto)

had skated a 5,000-metre race.

But Van Gennip, full of confidence after her other two victories, was far from daunted.

"I was glad after I saw Ehrig's time. I thought I could beat it," said Van Gennip, who was embraced by Ehrig after the race.

Skating in the fifth pair, she took the lead after 51-2 laps of the 12-1/2 lap race and maintained it. She finished in 7:14.13 to the cheers of the large and highly vocal contingent of her countrymen.

East German Gabi Zange finished in 7:21.61 to take the

bronze.

"Even if I hadn't won, I would have considered the Olympics a success with two gold medals," Van Gennip said "now I can celebrate."

Ehrig's silver was her third medal of the Olympics, and Zange's bronze was her second.

The East Germans, who won nine of 12 women's speed skating medals and all four golds at Sarajevo in 1984, finished these games with one gold, five silvers and four bronzes. The fifth gold medal was won by American Bonnie Blair.

Markku Alen bidding for sixth win

ESTORIL, Portugal, Feb. 29. (Reuter) The Portuguese motor rally, marred by fatal accidents in recent years, opens tomorrow with Finland's Markku Alen bidding for his sixth win.

Three spectators were killed in the last two rallies and the organisers, anxious to avoid any repeats, have tightened crowd control and for the first time will use loudspeakers cars to proceed the competitors at every stage.

"We have done everything we can for security and what we need now is responsible behaviour by the public," said Cesar Torres of the organising committee.

Alen, who won here last year and took the Swedish rally last month, starts firm favourite and is likely to face his toughest challenge from Lancia works teammate Massimo Biasion of Italy.

"This has to be a great car," said Alen of the new Lancia Delta Integrale which will make its debut over the 2,100-km (1,300-mile) course, the third event in this year's world championship.

Finland's Hannu Mikkola, a three-time winner here, leads the Mazda challenge and other contenders include Swedes Ingvar Carlsson, also in a Mazda 323, and Stig Blomqvist in a Ford Sierra.

The rally opens with a special stage around the Estoril Formula One Autodrome before the 120 cars head north on the 682-km (423-mile) first leg to Povoas de Varzim.

The Ford team could build up an early lead as most of the 10 special stages during the first leg are over tarmac where the Sierras are expected to shine.

Price Cobb wins Imsa Camel GT car race

MIAMI, Feb. 29. (AP) The Grand Prix of Miami finally came down to one Porsche 962 racing two of the new, feared Jaguar XJR-9S.

Price Cobb, who co-drove the Porsche with Englishman James Weaver, held on to win the three-hour Imsa Camel GT event in the second closest finish in the 18 years the sports car series has been in existence.

Hunt
"One way or another, we knew throughout the race that we were going to be in the hunt," said Cobb, who drove the final hour.

After a long caution period early in the last 60 minutes, caused by a crash, a blocked pit exit and some controversial scoring, Cobb found himself in the lead, just ahead of the two Jaguars.

"I knew at that point that I only had two jaguars to deal with," he said. "One spun and the other gave me a Heckuva run."

The Jaguar shared by Daytona 24-hours winners Martin Brundle of England and sports car shared by Dutchman Jan Lammers and Davy Jones spun twice and wound up a lap behind in sixth.

Nielsen, trying hard to catch Cobb in the final 20 minutes, said, "It was pretty exciting. We caught the slow cars and that made it kind of impossible for me."

"Then he (Cobb) caught some slow cars and that made it close, but I didn't want to take too big chances at the end. At the end of

the season, the points will be important for the championship."

Cobb, from Evergreen, Colorado, was at the wheel of the Porsche prototype sports car for most of the last hour, driving a precise race on the narrow, concrete-lined downtown Miami street circuit.

Confusion reigned in the scorers' stand in the final hour after cars driven by Terry Visser and Jeff Andretti crashed near the pit road exit.

Several cars were held in the pits by race officials, apparently losing a lap during the caution flag. But after keeping the field under a full-course caution flag for more than 15 minutes while the scorers tried to get things straight, Cobb pulled away to about a six-second lead over the second-place Jaguar.

Nielsen moved right up to the rear of the Porsche several times in the last 10 minutes, but never quite caught the leader.

Held up
At the finish, Nielsen got held up by slow traffic and fell back, then Cobb was slowed by traffic near the end of the finish and beat the second-place car by just .004 of a second — about eight feet (2.4 metres).

The only closer finish in Imsa history came in 1976 at Lime Rock, Connecticut, when the Porsche Carrera of George Dyer beat the Chevrolet Monza of Michael Keyser by .001 of a second.

Five cars finished on the lead

lap and there were no official protests, although there were plenty of questions about the scoring.

Third place was awarded to the Porsche 962 of Italian Oscar Larrauri, followed by the Porsche of defending Imsa GTP champion Chip Robinson and Englishman Derek Bell, and the 962 of West Germans Klaus Ludwig and Hans Stuck.

Slipped back
The pole-winning, Nissan GTP, co-driven by defending champion Geoff Brabham of Australia and John Morton, led early in the race by as much as 16 seconds. But the car, suffering from brake problems, slipped back into the field during the second hour and wound up a lap off the pace in sixth.

The Jaguar of Davy Jones and Dutchman Jan Lammers also was a lap down in seventh, followed closely by the Porsche of A J Foyt and Rob Dyson.

A third Jaguar, shared by American-born Eddie Cheever and the other Daytona winner, Raul Boesel of Brazil, blew an engine in the first hour and wound up 34th in the 38-car field.

The race covered 124 laps and 232.252 miles (373.363 kilometres), with the winners averaging 77.203 mph (124.24 kph).

For Cobb, it was his eighth career Imsa GTP victory. Weaver won for the second time in Imsa racing. He co-drove to a win with Cobb last year at Road Atlanta.

The winners earned \$51,500. The Porsche 962, introduced in 1984, now has won 47 of its 65 GTP events.

There were four full-course caution flags in the eventful race, but no injuries were reported.

Italians Martino Finotto and Ruggero Melgrati, driving a Ferrari Alfa, finished 11th overall and won the Camel lights division.

A record crowd estimated at more than 70,000 was on hand for the sixth annual Miami Grand Prix, which is run on a temporary circuit that uses part of biscayne boulevard and winds through scenic bayfront park.

Chester fear backlash
CHESTER, England, Feb. 29. (Reuter) An English soccer club fears a disciplinary backlash after sacking their trainer for spitting at an opposition player.

Micky Clarke, trainer-coach with Third Division Chester, spat at Notts County striker Ian McParland during a 1-0 defeat on Saturday.

Chester chairman Eric Barnes said today: "We've got rid of Micky. What he did was disgraceful. You can't fight the trouble on the terraces and on the field when people are spitting in faces. But the club is not out of the water yet."

"Micky is no longer our responsibility but he was on Saturday. We may have to pay for that."

Dutch champions prepare for European Cup challenge

PSV Eindhoven crush Volendam in League soccer

NETHERLANDS, Feb. 29. (Reuters) Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven prepared in style for their European Cup challenge this week by crushing Volendam 6-1 yesterday, to extend their unbeaten run to 23 matches since the start of the Dutch League season.

Wim Kieft hit a second-half hat-trick as PSV bounced back from a surprise 2-2 draw with Fortuna Sittard last week to stay eight points clear of nearest rivals Ajax Amsterdam, who beat ninth-placed FC Utrecht 1-0.

Sounded
PSV's form in particular sounded a warning for the rest of Europe of a Dutch soccer revival that harks back to the country's glory days of the 1970s.

The national side has reached the latter stages of the European championship for the first time since 1976 and Ajax won the Cup Winners' Cup last year to end 14 years in the wilderness after successive European Cup wins from 1971 to 1973.

Ajax have had their problems this season, including losing coach Johann Cruyff, but they hope to continue the Dutch resurgence when they face Young Boys Bern of Switzerland on

Tuesday in the Cup Winners' Cup quarterfinals.

PSV, chasing a third successive Dutch championship and their first European trophy since the UEFA Cup in 1978, have produced the kind of form that could earn them European Cup success.

They play at Bordeaux in the first leg of the European Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday.

The French champions were held 0-0 at home by Paris Saint Germain on Saturday and slipped back into third place in the League behind Maitre Racing Paris who beat Lens 1-0. Maitre trail Monaco, who drew 0-0 on Friday, by three points.

Clash
Bordeaux's key midfielder Jose Tourre who was taken to hospital after a clash of heads may miss Wednesday's game and there are also doubts over the fitness of Philippe Fargoe and Dominique Bijotat.

Bayern Munich hammered out a warning to European Cup opponents Real Madrid by routing FC Homburg 6-0 on Saturday but failed to make ground on Werder Bremen who beat Bochum 1-0 to stay four points clear in the West German First

Division.

Real were held to a 1-1 draw at Sevilla on Sunday but extended their lead in the Spanish First Division to six points. The Spaniards have a fully fit side to face Bayern on Wednesday.

Real Sociedad moved into second place behind Real by beating Valencia 2-1. Atletico Madrid slipped to third by losing 2-0 to Barcelona, for whom England striker Gary Lineker scored twice.

Benfica of Portugal and Anderlecht of Belgium, European Cup rivals on Wednesday, had disappointing results at the weekend.

Benfica ended a three-match winning streak, drawing 1-1 at Maritimo, and lie seven points behind First Division leaders Porto, who retained their unbeaten League record by beating Varzim 3-0 — thanks to a hat-trick by skipper Fernando Gomes.

Anderlecht continued a poor run by losing 2-1 at home to Beerschot, despite the appointment of Raymond Goethals as coach last week. Goethals was once coach to the national side.

Anderlecht are sixth in the Belgian First Division, nine points

behind joint leaders Meebelen, who drew 0-0 at St Truiden, and Antwerp, who beat Club Brugge 2-0.

Meebelen face Dynamo Minsk in the Cup Winners' Cup on Wednesday and Brugge play Panathinaikos of Greece in the UEFA Cup.

Glasgow Rangers gained little encouragement for their tough European Cup clash with Romanian champions Steaua Bucharest with a 1-1 draw at Dundee United in the Scottish Premier Division on Saturday.

They slipped to four points behind local rivals Celtic who beat bottom club Morton 1-0 through a Roy Aitken goal.

Napoli
In Italy, a goal from Bruno Giordano gave Napoli 1-0 victory at Pescara, frustrating hopes that a predicted sign from the Virgin Mary, which brought thousands of pilgrims to Pescara on Sunday, would bring fortune to the local team.

Neither prediction was fulfilled and Napoli remain five points clear at the top of the Italian First Division. AC Milan stayed second with a 2-1 win over Sampdoria, despite missing suspended Dutchman Ruud Gullit.

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SPORTS

McNeil pips teenager

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Feb. 29, (Reuters): Top-seeded American Lori McNeil gave a lesson in finesse tennis to unseeded teenager Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands on the way to a 6-3 6-2 victory at the \$100,000 Oklahoma tournament yesterday.

McNeil, 24 and ranked 11th in the world, needed just 56 minutes to beat the 15-year-old Schultz, who upset third seed Raffaella Reggi of Italy in the semifinals.

McNeil mixed up her shots, often taking pace off the ball, and used drop shots with great success to keep the hard-hitting Schultz off balance.

"It's easy to hit pace with pace so I tried to take a little bit off the ball," McNeil said.

McNeil fell behind 2-0 in the first set but lost only six points in taking the next five games.

The second set was similar as Schultz, who turned professional just over a year ago, took a 2-1 lead, but managed to win just four more points in the match.

McNeil had reached the final here for three straight years, but this was her first Oklahoma title.

"Being in her first finals, she may have overhit a little bit," McNeil said of her less experienced opponent. "She's very powerful and very aggressive but sometimes she doesn't play the percentage shot. That will come in time."

Schultz, who practiced with McNeil at the US open last year, agreed with the top seed's assessment.

"I wanted to just hit too hard," Schultz said. "Today I wanted to hit across from her and I couldn't. She was everywhere."

Swede wins

METZ, France, Feb. 29, (AP): Sweden's Jonas Svensson yesterday won the \$93,400 Lorraine Open tennis tournament, defeating the Netherlands' Michiel Schapers in two sets.

Svensson, seeded No. 1 here, beat Schapers 6-2, 6-4.

The week-long tournament counted for the Nahisco Grand Prix.

Bridge

RESULTS OF THE SAS bridge club game played on Sunday N/S

1st Lyn Edwards & Lollo Murthwaite

2nd Camilla Guirgis & Janita Akel

3rd Donna Materny & Ely Lammeris

E/W

1st Helen Hughes & Jean Arban

2nd Wadad Khoury & Naha Khalaf

3rd Mastry Clarke & Diane Felt.

ENGLAND FAIL TO CAPITALISE THE NEW BALL

Greatbatch century gives New Zealand a draw

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb. 29, (Reuters): New Zealand, aided by a century from Test debutant Mark Greatbatch and a docile pitch, today drew the second Test against England.

New Zealand finished on 350 for seven wickets with Greatbatch not out with 107 and Ian Smith not out 23 on the fifth and final day of the match.

The home side started the day in trouble at 154 for five, just 132 ahead.

Taken

England's best chance of winning lay with the new ball, which was taken on the fifth over of the morning.

But nightwatchman Martin Snedden and his overnight partner Greatbatch negotiated the danger in almost complete safety, aided by the placid wicket and unimpaired England bowling.

The highlight of the day was the hatting of Greatbatch.

The round left-hander hatted with absolute authority, showing a temperament which belied his inexperience, to become only the

fourth New Zealand to reach a century on his debut.

Most of his scoring strokes were in front of the wicket and many of them were drives of impeccable timing and classical style.

Although Greatbatch took six-and-a-half hours to compile his century, neither the pitch nor the situation allowed for fast scoring. He gave his only chance to John Emburey off David Capel when on 71.

Greatbatch received good support from Snedden, 20, John Bracewell, lbw to England captain Mike Gatting for 38, and Smith.

Snedden lasted until 30 minutes after lunch, by which time the match was safe for New Zealand.

Like Snedden, Bracewell had few problems with the England attack and this gave an indication of the gentle nature of the pitch and the lack of variety from the England bowling.

Off-spinner Emburey got very little turn and although he howled accurately he rarely

looked as though he would break through.

It seemed Gatting miscalculated in his reading of the pitch and his selection of the twelfth man. His side lacked the sharper spin of Eddie Hemmings, and the England selectors must consider him for the Wellington Test starting on Thursday.

The New Zealand selectors later announced captain Jeff Crowe was being dropped for the third Test because of his lack of batting form.

Much of the blame for the drawn result must lie with the pitch. It played low and slow throughout and while it was relatively easy for batsmen to stay at the crease, it was never easy to force the score on.

In each of the three innings after the openers got their sides off to a good start, there was a middle-order collapse as the batsmen attempted to force the pace.

While the batting on both sides was mostly mediocre, the bowling was even more ordinary.

Graham Dilley continued his

good form for England and New Zealand's Ewen Chatfield bowled as good a line and length as ever, but the other bowlers rarely looked threatening.

The scoring rate throughout the second Test rarely rose above two runs an over, and this, coupled with the dull weather, drew only small crowds with less than 1,000 spectators attending the final day.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings 301

ENGLAND first innings 323

NEW ZEALAND second innings 62

T. Franklin b Dilley 62

J. Wright c French b Radford 49

J. Crowe lbw Dilley 1

M. Crowe lbw Jarvis 26

M. Greatbatch not out 107

K. Rutherford b Emburey 2

M. Snedden c French b Capel 20

J. Bracewell lbw Gatting 38

I. Smith not out 23

Extras (8-8 lb-8 nb-0) 22

Total (for seven wickets) 350

Fall of wickets: 1-117 2-119 3-119 4-150 5-153 6-232 7-296

Bowling: Dilley 23-9-44-2, Jarvis 27-7-54-1, Radford 20-4-53-1 (4nb), Emburey 57-24-91-1 (2nb), Gatting 17-4-40-1, Fairbrother 2-0-9-0, Moxon 2-0-3-0.



Greatbatch on his way to 107 not out yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Second straight victory in US Pro Indoor tennis

Mayotte takes home \$123,800 first prize

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 29, (AP): Tim Mayotte won his second straight US Pro indoor tournament in Philadelphia yesterday with a 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 victory over 16th-seeded John Fitzgerald.

Mayotte, who was seeded second in the \$600,000 tournament, broke Fitzgerald's service three times in the fourth set to win his 15th straight match to take home the \$123,800 first prize.

Double faulted

Fitzgerald double faulted on the third match point to end the 2-hour, 21-minute match in front of 14,860 spectators.

Fitzgerald, who beat No. 1 seed Ivan Lendl in the third round, earned \$61,900 to put him over the \$1 million mark for his career.

After losing the first set, Mayotte took control of the next three sets of his services and passing shots. But Fitzgerald pressed Mayotte in the last set by breaking his service once and threatening to do so again.

"I felt in control, but I was very leery, because John is a real

opportunistic-type player," Mayotte said. "When you think you've got him down, he can really surprise you and come back."

Mayotte had nine aces and won five love games. Fitzgerald was forced to come to the net repeatedly to attack Mayotte's returns.

"John's a guy who places his serve well," Mayotte said. "It's not a big serve, and he tries to live off his volleys. So I was reading his serve pretty well, and that's the one thing that gave me a lot of encouragement as the match went on."

Fitzgerald said he felt his volleys did not penetrate as well as they had earlier in the tournament.

"I think it gave him a chance to hit a few second shots and he hit them very well," Fitzgerald said. "I thought he hit a lot of great passing shots and I think maybe that was really the difference."

Mayotte broke through Fitzgerald's service in the first game of the second set, then screamed after missing his third break point in the fifth game.



Mayotte holds up the championship bowl. (Reuters wirephoto)

Young Australia beat India

SYDNEY, Feb. 29, (Reuters): Australia's young cricketers coasted to a seven-wicket victory over India to notch up their second successive win in the first World Youth Cup limited overs tournament today.

Fast bowler Brian McFadyen took four for 20 off eight overs as Australia humbled India out for only 132 off 45.3 overs.

Stuart Law hit a confident unbeaten 72 as Australia reached 136 for three with almost 11 of their 50 overs to spare against an Indian attack which included test leg spinner Narendra Hirwani, who had to settle for just one wicket.

Crushed

Australia, who crushed the West Indies by 73 runs yesterday, and Pakistan are the only sides with a 100 per cent record in the competition for under-19s.

Pakistan followed victory over an International Cricket Conference (ICC) Associates XI with a seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka. Opener Zahoor Elahi hit 71 as Pakistan passed Sri Lanka's 151 with more than 10 overs to spare.

In the other matches, a hard-hit 64 by West Indies captain Brian Lara paved the way for a

41-run victory over New Zealand, who made 195 for nine in their 50 overs in reply to the West Indies' 236 for nine, including 40 extras.

England, inspired by 68 from Nasser Hussain and helped by six dropped catches, made 254 for eight in their 50 overs and then dismissed the ICC Associates for 175 for a 79-run victory.

Results

In Wentworth: West Indies 236 for nine in 50 overs, innings closed (B Lara 64), New Zealand 195 for nine in 50 overs (M Douglas 44, S Thompson 44), West Indies won by 41 runs.

In Mildura: England 254 for eight in 50 overs (N Hussain 68, M Alleyne 40), International Cricket Conference (ICC) Associates 175 in 48.3 overs (T Penney 55, T De Leede 45), England won by 79 runs.

In Barmera: Sri Lanka 151 in 48.3 overs (C Mendis 74), Pakistan 152 for three in 39.2 overs (Zahoor Elahi 71), Pakistan won by seven wickets.

In Berri: India 132 in 45.3 overs (N Mongia 46, B McFadyen four for 20), Australia 136 for three in 39.2 overs (S Law 72 not out), Australia won by seven wickets.

Navratilova defeats Shriver to win title

FAIRFAX, Virginia, Feb. 29, (AP): Martina Navratilova defeated Pam Shriver for the 23rd straight time yesterday, 6-0, 6-2, to win her third tournament in as many weeks and the top prize in the \$300,000 Virginia Slims of Washington.

The top-seeded Navratilova frustrated Shriver with a variety of passing shots and lost only nine points on her serve in the 55-minute victory. She won the first six games and the final six games to improve her lifetime record against Shriver to 33-3.

Navratilova, the world's second-ranked player, earned \$60,000 in cash, mingling ninth title at this stop or the tour. She did not lose a set in five matches this week.

Navratilova opened the match with a service break, then held at 30. She made it 3-0 by following a Shriver double fault with three brilliant passing shots.

Navratilova then held at 15 before fighting off five game points to take a 5-0 lead. Shriver finished the game with two double faults, twice hitting second serves that tipped off the net and out of bounds.



Navratilova in action during the match. (Reuters wirephoto)

Given the opportunity to serve for the set, Navratilova used two passing shots, a service winner and an ace to win the game at love. She lost only three points on her serve in the entire set.

Shriver, ranked No. 4 and the tournament's second seed, threatened to get back into the

match by opening the second set by holding serve at love, then getting her only break of the match.

She then went up 40-0 in game 3, but ultimately lost the game when yet another second serve skipped off the very top of the net and landed out of play.

Falcon advance

TWO matches were played on Friday at the Oval in the Al Mulla Mitsubishi League organised by the Unity Cricketers whereby Falcon scored a thumping 9 wicket victory over Union.

The other match between Capri and Deccan Green was undecided due to a protest lodged by the latter. The decision rests with the organising committee.

In the afternoon, Union batting first started with Nadeem and Abid who put on 23 in 4 overs.

The penetrative bowling of Muneer changed the situation completely as he dismissed both openers leaving Union on 36 for 2.

Mehmood (17) along with Shehzad (31) produced a fine partnership worth 49 runs when Mehmood was bowled by Munir. At 69 for 5 Union were in real trouble. Sher Afzal accounted for Saleem and it was 69 for 6.

Rauf came on for Munir but made no impression as Union gradually got past the 100 mark. With the score at 110 Munir was

brought back into the attack and he demolished the middle order by claiming Saeed and Khadim both lbw for cheap scores.

Iqbal then accounted for the tailenders and Union were bowled out for a paltry 116 in 22 overs. Munir was the main destroyer taking 5 for 44 in 6 overs. Iqbal gave him good support by claiming 3 for 18 in just 4 overs.

Set back

Falcon suffered an early setback when Iqbal was caught off Shehzad for 4. Sher Afzal and Ayoub thereafter tore the Union attack with Ayoub in particular playing marvellous cricket scoring an unbeaten 56 with 7 well struck boundaries.

Sher Afzal lent him adequate support with an equally brilliant 44 not out with 3 fours that ensured Falcon a berth in the semifinals to be played later next month.

Kenyan safari rally on March 31

TOYOTA versus Lancia — that is the thrilling encounter which should provide the focus of the 1988 Marlboro Safari Rally which begins at 1000 hrs in Nairobi on Thursday, March 31.

Reigning world champions Lancia will field their strongest three-car team against three Safari winners Toyota.

Lancia have never won the Kenyan Classic, whilst Toyota Team Europe scored an unforgettable hat-trick of victories in 1984, 1985 and 1986. Both teams have been practising hard since before Christmas. Lancia with the brand new Delta Integrale and Toyota with the Turbo Supra, which made such an impressive debut on the 1987 Marlboro-sponsored Ivory Coast Rally.

Markku Alen-Iikka Kivimaki head the Lancia line-up, with Italy's Miki Biasion-Tiziano Siviero, who have been testing in Kenya, making their second Safari appearance plus Kenya's vastly experienced Vic Preston Jr John Lyall seeking their first Safari win.

Hyderabad lift Lions Cup

HYDERABAD Cricket Club (HCC) won the Lions Cup tournament played at Yarmouk ground on Friday, beating Amar Cricket Club in a nail biting finish.

On a windy day Amar won the toss and put HCC in to bat. Disaster struck the HCC camp when Remy called on Masood for the first run of the innings. Neville's direct throw flattened the stumps before it could reach the crease. None of the other batsmen was prepared to take any chances thereafter.

Remy and Rodney took the score to 23 when the latter was bowled by Tariq for 9. Sethi joined Remy and repaired the damage to a large extent. When the score reached 68 Sethi lunged forward to a ball from Fredrick but missed the line and was adjudged lbw. His 26 included two fours.

Aijaz and Remy added another 16 runs when Remy gave a return catch to Kassim. Remy's 40 included 3 hits to the boundary and was a great effort under the prevailing conditions.

Captain Ashfaq kept the wickets falling. Aijaz who was bogged down for sometime tried to hit his way out and in the process collected 3 fours but was caught in the midwicket by Kassim for a patiently made 34. Saleem was unlucky to be bowled off his left boot for 5. James played a lofted cover drive, but Pradeep jumped up in the air, knocked the ball up and held a spectacular catch.

HCC were 7 down for 123 runs when Naushad joined Ashfaq. He too could not last long as Fredrick bowled him for 6. Shanoor made 5 and Ahmed was run out for 4 runs. Ashfaq remained unbeaten on 35 with 5 fours.

Fredrick and Ronny took 3 wickets each while Tariq and Kassim had one each. Amar had done a marvellous job in restricting HCC to a total of 169 runs in 36 overs.

Praveen and Aslam opened the innings for Amar and played cautiously. The first wicket of Aslam (14) fell in the 9th over when the score was 22. Remy trapping him lbw. From the other end Saleem bowled a late outswinger which took the outside edge of the Pradeep's bat and



Captain Ashfaq Khan and Masood lift the trophy.



Hyderabad cricket team.

Sethi at gully took an ankle high catch (27 for 2).

Kassim joined Praveen and the 50 of innings was hoisted in the 17th over. Kassim (20) hit a six over cover point off Aijaz.

However, James took his wicket when he skied a ball to give Sethi his 2nd catch. Amar was run out in a mix-up and Sethi who was brought on to bowl took 2 wickets in consecutive overs. He bowled Praveen (34) and Fredrick (6) with similar balls.

Amar was tottering at 84 for 6 and were in dire straits but once again they were let off the hook by the HCC bowlers. Edwin and Tariq were allowed to settle down and their partnership flourished until Amar needed only 30 runs to win. Sethi was again called on to bowl and he proved his worth when he bowled the well set Tariq for 26. Masood had Ronny caught behind for 2 with just 13 runs needed for victory. Saleem came

in to bowl his 7th over. Off the second ball he took a return catch to send Edwin back for 35. A ball later trapped Neville lbw and it was all over. HCC won by 12 runs.

The bowling honours were shared by Saleem (3 for 20) Sethi (3 for 17), Remy, Masood and James took one wicket each.

In the awarding ceremony attended by a large gathering Ashfaq and Masood lifted the Lions Cup to thunderous applause.

Aijaz was adjudged "Batsman of the Tournament" and Saleem also of HCC was awarded "Best Bowler of the Tournament". Sethi received the "Man of the Match" award for his all-round performance. Prizes were given away by the chief guests Mr Khan, wife of Dr Khan and Balg, chairman of BTCC. Lawrence of the organising committee, thanked members of the participating teams for their cooperation and fair play.

Santa Fe win basketball title

THE Kuwait Santa Fe Braun basketball team scored a resounding victory last Wednesday night, defeating the strong American School Kuwait (ASK) Varsity team 104-87 to take the 1987-1988 league tournament for the third time in four years. The previous week, Santa Fe cagers trounced the ASK coaches team 98-79.

Both of these opponents had convincingly beaten Santa Fe during the regular season. The ASK finished undefeated and in the first place. The remainder of the regular season standings saw the ASK coaches second, Santa Fe third and last year's champions, the US Embassy, in fourth position. Meriden Hotel took fifth place.

The third place regular season finish resulted in Santa Fe being underdogged for the playoffs tournament; the ASK coaches and Varsity teams both expected easy victories.

The major factor in Santa Fe's success this season was the

appearance of five excellent players from Engineering Equipment Inc. (EEI) of Mina Abdullah. Sonny Pineda, Greg Lugo, Tony Zalavarría, Al Barcelona and Alan Pablico, together with Nilo Dirige of BTC, provided a balanced roster to complement the only two returning players from last season, Mark Lowey and Curt Jorgensen.

In the semifinals win over the ASK coaches, ASK's 6'6" centre Richard McField poured in an amazing 40 points, but it wasn't enough to beat the determined Santa Fe team whose scoring included Pineda and Zalavarría with 14 points each and Barcelona and Lowey with 23 apiece.

The talented schoolboys depend on 6'7" centre Tarique Al Issa, slick guard Chris Dinwiddie and steady swingman Danny Vinet. In their regular season 105-88 thrashing of Santa Fe, Al Issa, Dinwiddie and Vinet pumped in 36, 29 and 19 points, respectively. Vinet, in particular,



Santa Fe team.

crushed Santa Fe's hopes, during the game, with five unanswered baskets scored early in the 2nd half.

In the tournament finals, however, Santa Fe's balanced scoring attack was too much for

the Varsity: Lugo had 15 points, Pineda 16, Zalavarría 18, Barcelona 22 and Lowey 23. Jorgensen and Pablico provided the necessary defense and passing. Al Issa scored 37 and Dinwiddie had 31 to pace the ASK Varsity.

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